# THE KINGDOM

"FOR THE KINGDOM OF GOD IS NOT A MATTER OF EATING AND DRINKING, BUT OF RIGHTEOUSNESS, PEACE AND JOY IN THE HOLY SPIRIT," ROMANS 14:17

*PREACH MAWUSHE* *VESPERS MAKADO*

**"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law."**
**Galatians 5:22-23**

BOOK TITLE: The Kingdom

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Dedication:

To those who seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness,

May you be filled with the righteousness, peace, and joy that come from living under the reign of Christ.

May this devotional stir within you a deeper hunger for Kingdom living and empower you to walk daily by the Spirit.

# Acknowledgments

We give thanks to God, the King eternal, who has called us into His marvelous Kingdom.

To our families—thank you for walking this journey of faith with us and supporting the vision God has entrusted to us.

To the Kingdom Headquarters family—your unwavering faith, love, and prayers have been a continual encouragement.

To our mentors, spiritual leaders, and fellow co-laborers in Christ—your insights and wisdom have helped shape the truths we share in this book.

May all glory, honor, and dominion be unto the King of kings.

— Vespers Makado & Preach Mawushe

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# Introduction:

## Title: The Reality of the Kingdom

Romans 14:17 (NIV) says, "For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit."

In **The Kingdom**, we explore the heart of what it means to live as citizens of God's Kingdom. This is not a future promise alone—it is a present reality, one that transforms how we think, live, and engage with the world.

This 30-day devotional will walk you through the principles, power, and presence of the Kingdom of God. It is an invitation to discover a higher way of living, one that is marked by the fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22–23) and rooted in divine righteousness.

As you journey through these pages, may your mind be renewed, your spirit awakened, and your life aligned with the values of the Kingdom. Let every devotion draw you nearer to the King and equip you to reflect His reign on earth.

With bold faith and expectation,

— Vespers Makado & Preach Mawushe

## Preface:

Title: Living the Kingdom Life

The Kingdom of God is not a distant dream—it is a present invitation. Jesus came proclaiming the Kingdom, and now, through the Holy Spirit, we are empowered to live it daily.

Galatians 5:22–23 paints the portrait of Kingdom character: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. These are not human achievements but the fruit of abiding in the King.

In a world of chaos, confusion, and compromise, Kingdom living offers a standard rooted in truth and empowered by grace. This devotional is not just a teaching tool—it is a spiritual guide for transformation. It will challenge you to seek the Kingdom first in all things and to walk by the Spirit in every season.

May this journey bring clarity, conviction, and a contagious hunger for the reality of God's reign in your life.

— Vespers Makado & Preach Mawushe

# THE KINGDOM FORETOLD

Devotion 01

The book of Daniel is a very important book in the bible because in the book of Daniel, God revealed what was going to happen to all the kingdoms of the earth till the earth will be destroyed ( the second coming of Jesus). Let's start with where the story begins.

Nebuchadnezzar was a king who had conquered entirely all other kingdoms during his time. His kingdom was the greatest in that time period. If you existed in that time, definitely you would think that on earth there wouldn't exist any kingdom greater than Babylon, Nebuchadnezzar's kingdom. Nebuchadnezzar thought he had finished it all. He thought his kingdom, Babylon, would rule the earth forever because entirely all other kingdoms on earth during that time all answered to him. It made Nebuchadnezzar have thoughts like the one below.

Daniel 4:29-30 “Twelve months later, as the king was walking on the roof of the royal palace of Babylon, he said, “Is not this the great Babylon I have built as the royal residence, by my mighty power and for the glory of my majesty?”

Nebuchadnezzar was walking on his rooftop and he thinks to himself the glory of the great Babylon he had built for himself. While Nebuchadnezzar was having such a mentality, that's when God chooses to reveal the future of all the kingdoms of earth, what will happen to them till Jesus returns (the second coming of Jesus). That's when God showed Nebuchadnezzar the future of all the kingdoms of the earth.

It happened in this manner, Nebuchadnezzar has a dream, Nebuchadnezzar wants his prophets to tell him the dream he had and then interpret it for him. His prophets fail, Daniel manages to interpret the dream. The dream was of a statue and each body part representing kingdoms of the world. Let's go through Daniel's dream interpretation.

Daniel 2:36-43

[36]“This was the dream, and now we will interpret it to the king.

[37]Your Majesty, you are the king of kings. The God of heaven has given you dominion and power and might and glory;

[38]in your hands he has placed all mankind and the beasts of the field and the birds in the sky. Wherever they live, he has made you ruler over them all. You are that head of gold.

[39]"After you, another kingdom will arise, inferior to yours. Next, a third kingdom, one of bronze, will rule over the whole earth.

[40]Finally, there will be a fourth kingdom, strong as iron—for iron breaks and smashes everything—and as iron breaks things to pieces, so it will crush and break all the others.

[41]Just as you saw that the feet and toes were partly of baked clay and partly of iron, so this will be a divided kingdom; yet it will have some of the strength of iron in it, even as you saw iron mixed with clay.

[42]As the toes were partly iron and partly clay, so this kingdom will be partly strong and partly brittle.

[43]And just as you saw the iron mixed with baked clay, so the people will be a mixture and will not remain united, any more than iron mixes with clay."

The statue in Nebuchadnezzar's dream, as described by Daniel, is interpreted as a representation of a sequence of kingdoms or empires. According to history, we now know the names of the kingdoms Daniel referred to. They are as below.

1. Head of Gold: Babylonian Empire (Nebuchadnezzar's kingdom)

2. Chest and Arms of Silver: Medo-Persian Empire (which conquered Babylon)

3. Belly and Thighs of Bronze: Greek Empire (under Alexander the Great, which conquered Persia)

4. Legs of Iron: Roman Empire (which was strong and powerful, like iron)

5. Feet of Clay: A divided or weakened kingdom/state (fragmented power structure – current status-quo)

The statue is then struck by a rock (representing God's kingdom), which destroys it and becomes a mountain, symbolizing the ultimate triumph of God's kingdom over earthly powers.

Daniel 2:44-45 "In the time of those kings, the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that will never be destroyed, nor will it be left to another people. It will crush all those kingdoms and bring them to an end, but it will itself endure forever. This is the meaning of the vision of the rock cut out of a mountain, but not by human hands—a rock that broke the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver and the gold to pieces. "The great God has shown the king what will take place in the future. The dream is true and its interpretation is trustworthy."

The title of this sermon is **"The Kingdom Foretold."** It shows how in Nebuchadnezzar's time, the coming of the kingdom of God to earth was foretold that the kingdom of God will come and take over all the other kingdoms of the earth. Another important thing to highlight is that this deeply bored and irritated Nebuchadnezzar because he didn't want his kingdom to cease from reigning. Nebuchadnezzar shows his ignorance in the way below. The material which make up the statue were correctly defined.

Daniel 2:31-33 "Your Majesty looked, and there before you stood a large statue—an enormous, dazzling statue, awesome in appearance. The head of the statue was made of pure gold, its chest and arms of silver, its belly and thighs of bronze, its legs of iron, its feet partly of iron and partly of baked clay."

It's clear from that text that the head is gold. The head is the one that represents Nebuchadnezzar's kingdom of Babylon. The arms and chest are of silver. The belly and thigh are bronze. The legs are iron. The feet are iron and clay. But what does Nebuchadnezzar do?

Daniel 3:1,6 "King Nebuchadnezzar made an image of gold, sixty cubits high and six cubits wide, and set it up on the plain of Dura in the province of Babylon. Whoever does not fall down and worship will immediately be thrown into a blazing furnace."

Nebuchadnezzar goes on to make a statue, following exactly the design of the one he saw in a dream. But the difference is that, instead of respecting the different materials that made it, silver, iron, bronze and clay, Nebuchadnezzar makes it all of gold. In other words he was saying to God, only Babylon will rule the world forever till eternity, these other kingdoms (different materials) mean nothing. That's the arrogance of Nebuchadnezzar.

Nevertheless, God's word never fails. If we read throughout history, Babylon was conquered. Babylon is now Iraq in present day. If you go to Iraq today, the history and gardens of Nebuchadnezzar are preserved. It was conquered and other kingdoms ruled and the kingdom of God came and made it's impact. This is the coming of the kingdom of God to earth foretold.

The kingdom of God was the rock which rolled down. This shows how the kingdom of God was included in the sequence of the kingdoms of earth. Since Daniel's time, the lsraelites now knew that God's kingdom will come to earth.

This is the first devotion of the book which shows how the coming of the kingdom of God was foretold in Babylon through the king. Let's read other sermons to see how the kingdom of God came, when it came and how it exists today. To God be the glory!

# THE ROCK AND ITS IMPACT

Devotion 02

"Your Majesty looked, and there before you stood a large statue—an enormous, dazzling statue, awesome in appearance. The head of the statue was made of pure gold, its chest and arms of silver, its belly and thighs of bronze, its legs of iron, its feet partly of iron and partly of baked clay. While you were watching, a rock was cut out, but not by human hands. It struck the statue on its feet of iron and clay and smashed them. Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver and the gold were all broken to pieces and became like chaff on a threshing floor in the summer. The wind swept them away without leaving a trace. But the rock that struck the statue became a huge mountain and filled the whole earth." Daniel 2:31-35

In king Nebuchadnezzar's dream, there was a statue. The statue was of different material representing different kingdoms. My main focus in this sermon is on the rolling stone. It says a rock was cut, but not by human hands. What is this rock? It is the kingdom of God.

Daniel 2:44-45 "In the time of those kings, the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that will never be destroyed, nor will it be left to another people. It will crush all those kingdoms and bring them to an end, but it will itself endure forever. This is the meaning of the vision of the rock cut out of a mountain, but not by human hands—a rock that broke the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver and the gold to pieces. "The great God has shown the king what will take place in the future. The dream is true and its interpretation is trustworthy."

The rock refers to a kingdom, whose structure and leadership was designed by God Himself. The nature and characteristics of the kingdom are of God.

It says the rock struck the statue on it's feet of iron and clay. What is iron and clay in the statue?

Daniel 2:41-43 "Just as you saw that the feet and toes were partly of baked clay and partly of iron, so this will be a divided kingdom; yet it will have some of the strength of iron in it, even as you saw iron mixed with clay. As the toes were partly iron and partly clay, so this kingdom will be partly strong and partly brittle. And just as you saw the iron mixed with baked clay, so the people will be a mixture and will not remain united, any more than iron mixes with clay."

From the scripture above, iron and clay refers to a divided kingdom. This refers to the current or present day kingdoms. The kingdoms of the world are now divided. We have United States of America, Russia, China, India, South Africa, Zimbabwe and all the countries that make up the globe. One thing about these countries is that they are divided. These are the divided kingdoms Daniel was talking about. The kingdoms are of iron and clay, Daniel defines it as partly strong and partly brittle. That's the reality we are living in. All the kingdoms or countries are strong and with weaknesses of their own (partly brittle).

Daniel then says, it's iron baked with clay, so the kingdom will be a mixture and will not remain united. That's today's reality, we are mixed all over - Chinese in Russia etc, but there is no unity between the kingdoms. That's why we are having World Wars and continuous misunderstanding between countries, because Daniel had already said the kingdoms will not be united.

Verse 34 said **"the rock struck the statue on its feet of iron and clay and smashed them."** We now know what iron and clay is, it refers to this time period. And in this time period, that's when the rock struck the statue. That means in this era is when the kingdom of God is smashing the other kingdoms of earth.

We are living in a hard and difficult world. Life is difficult and all, the cost of living is high and all, but exactly in this period is when the kingdom of God is smashing other kingdoms of the world and taking over. This is very practical and realistic when you look around. Christianity is now a popular religion. Most individuals know Jesus now and the gospel is being spread on the internet and on social media handles. In this era, the rock is smashing the feet of clay and iron, in this era God's kingdom is being spread and it's taking over.

**Daniel 2:35 "Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver and the gold were all broken to pieces and became like chaff on a threshing floor in the summer. The wind swept them away without leaving a trace. But the rock that struck the statue became a huge mountain and filled the whole earth."**

The iron, the clay, the bronze and the silver were brought down to pieces and were blown by the wind leaving no trace. Babylon, Greek empire, Roman empire were all destroyed and all their characteristics and kingdoms habits and behaviours no longer exist in this present age. But the rock that struck the statue (the kingdom of God) became a huge mountain and filled the whole earth. This is happening now.

Why are we having so many churches today, different bible translations into all languages, many preachers and the whole world know about Christ even though some deny it. It is the rock becoming a mountain, the kingdom of God taking over. Let's hear how Daniel interprets that part of the dream where the rock destroys the statue.

**Daniel 2:44-45 "In the time of those kings, the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that will never be destroyed, nor will it be left to another people. It will crush all**

those kingdoms and bring them to an end, but it will itself endure forever. This is the meaning of the vision of the rock cut out of a mountain, but not by human hands—a rock that broke the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver and the gold to pieces. “The great God has shown the king what will take place in the future. The dream is true and its interpretation is trustworthy.”

Daniel says in the times of those kings, that means in our times, in the time of different counties that fail to unite. In these times, the God of heaven is setting up a kingdom that will never be destroyed. I don't know how we are failing to see this. Let's look around us and see how the gospel is being spread. God is setting up a kingdom that will not be destroyed.

The kingdom of God is crushing all other kingdoms, bringing them to an end, but the kingdom of God endures for ever.

Daniel then says in verse 45, that God has shown the king (Nebuchadnezzar) what will happen in future. In the time of Daniel, it was a prophecy. But to us, it's a present day reality. Daniel then says the dream is true and it's interpretation is trustworthy. Surely, the rock is making an impact now and the kingdom of God is taking over. We might fail to notice this but it's happening. The rock is making an impact, it's smashing the feet of iron and clay- God's kingdom is currently taking over!

# THE JEWISH MISCONCEPTION

Devotion 03

**Matthew 1:17 "Thus there were fourteen generations in all from Abraham to David, fourteen from David to the exile to Babylon, and fourteen from the exile to the Messiah."**

Matthew tells us about the exile to Babylon. The exile to Babylon includes the time/era of Daniel. That is the time in which the book of Daniel was written. One of the most important things we find in the book of Daniel is the prophecy of the kingdom of God coming on earth. That meant after Daniel's prophecy, the lsraelites started to believe that God's kingdom was coming to earth. From the exile to Babylon until the coming of the Messiah (Jesus) they were fourteen generations. In those fourteen generations, already the lsraelites are everyday looking forward to the coming of the kingdom of God on earth.

Let me take you through the mentality of the lsraelites during that time. Because Babylon had conquered the world, from Babylon to Merdo-Persia and from Merdo-Persia to the Greek empire and from the Greek empire to the Roman empire, the Jews were living in oppression always. During these fourteen generations, to the Jews they were fourteen generations of oppression.

The Jews were now tired of oppression and of being slaves. When the Messiah (Jesus) came, it was during the time of the Roman empire. The Romans were oppressing the Jews, collecting taxes from them and the Jews had no freedom. During Jesus' time, the Roman Empire had significant control over Jewish territories like Judea and Galilee. Let's look at few instances of the Roman and Jewish impact.

**Roman Governance and Oppression**

1. **Roman Prefects**: Judea was governed by Roman prefects, such as Pontius Pilate, who had authority over the region and were responsible for maintaining order and collecting taxes.

2. **Taxation**: The Roman Empire imposed heavy taxes on the population, including tributes, tolls, and customs. This economic burden contributed to widespread resentment among Jews.

3. **Military Presence**: Roman soldiers were stationed in key areas, including Jerusalem and Caesarea, to maintain control and quell any potential uprisings.

4. **Cultural and Religious Tensions**: Roman rule often clashed with Jewish customs and traditions. The presence of Roman symbols and idols was particularly offensive to many Jews, leading to tensions and conflicts.

### Impact on Jewish Society

1. **Social and Economic Disparities**: The heavy taxation and economic exploitation by the Romans exacerbated social and economic disparities within Jewish society.

2. **Religious Restrictions**: While the Romans generally allowed Jews to practice their religion, there were instances of interference and restrictions, particularly when Jewish practices were seen as threatening Roman authority.

In the ways above, the Jews suffered from the presence of the Romans. Let's see the direct clash in scripture. These are examples of Roman rulership and oppression in Jesus' time, as depicted in Scripture:

### Roman Governance and Taxation

1. **Taxation**:

- Matthew 17:24-27: The story of Jesus and the temple tax, where Jesus instructs Peter to pay the tax to avoid offense, shows the burden of taxation under Roman rule.

- Luke 20:20-26: Jesus is questioned about paying taxes to Caesar, highlighting the tension between Jewish loyalty to God and Roman demands for taxes.

### Roman Military Presence and Authority

1. **Roman Centurion's Servant**:

- Matthew 8:5-13, Luke 7:1-10: Jesus heals the servant of a Roman centurion, demonstrating the centurion's faith and the reach of Roman authority.

2. **Crucifixion**:

- Matthew 27:27-37, Mark 15:16-27, Luke 23:32-38, John 19:16-22: Jesus' crucifixion, a Roman form of execution, underscores the empire's power and control. The Jews had no method of crucification, it wasn't in the Law of Moses. The law of Moses only allowed stoning. Crucifixion (the way in which Jesus died) was entirely a Roman method.

Interactions with Roman Authorities

1. Jesus Before Pilate:

- Matthew 27:11-14, Mark 15:2-5, Luke 23:1-7, John 18:28-38: Jesus' trial before Pontius Pilate highlights the Roman judicial system and Pilate's reluctance to sentence Jesus.

2. The Inscription on the Cross:

- John 19:19-22: The inscription on Jesus' cross, "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews," written in Hebrew, Latin, and Greek, reflects Roman authority and mockery of Jesus' kingship.

Social and Economic Impact

1. The Widow's Offering:

- Mark 12:41-44, Luke 21:1-4: Jesus' observation of the widow's offering highlights the economic hardship faced by ordinary people under Roman rule.

Other examples are Zaccheus the tax collector etc. These examples illustrate the pervasive influence of Roman rulership and the complex interactions between Jesus and the Roman authorities.

Now that you see how in that day the Jews were highly oppressed by the Romans, no one wants oppression hence the Jews were looking for a way out. Their way out was now the prophecy by Daniel, they held onto it. Daniel had said the kingdom of God would come and take over all other kingdoms, so they thought from heaven there would descend an army that would fight and defeat the Romans and set the Jews free from oppression.

That is what the Jews thought the coming of the kingdom of God would look like. They thought it will be angels riding horses and fighting the Roman empire and establishing their own heavenly kingdom that would rule the world. That was their version and imagination of what the arrival of the kingdom of God would look like. Let's see that in scripture.

Acts 1:6 “Then they gathered around him and asked him, “Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?”

After Jesus' resurrection, the disciples asked him was it the time he would restore the kingdom to Israel, that meant setting it free from the Romans. They still thought the kingdom of God was a physical army that would conquer the world and destroy all other kingdoms and set the Jews free.

Luke 19:11 “While they were listening to this, he went on to tell them a parable, because he was near Jerusalem and the people thought that the kingdom of God was going to appear at once.”

The Jews thought when he was going to Jerusalem that's when the kingdom would appear. His journey to Jerusalem is known as the triumph entry or Palm Sunday, where he went to Jerusalem riding a donkey and the crowds singing throwing palm branches. They thought that's when the kingdom would appear as an army or anything of that sort.

Luke 24:13,21 "Now that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, but we had hoped that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel. And what is more, it is the third day since all this took place."

On the road to Emmaus, they expressed how they thought that Jesus would be the one to redeem lsrael and save it from the Roman empire, they were disappointed how he had died, it was the third day and lsrael was still under Roman oppression.

This is what the Jews thought the coming of the kingdom of God would look like and they thought He would fight other kingdoms and save them and set them free. Let's finish with when Jesus corrects their misconception saying the kingdom of God was not going to come with eye observation (armies and soldiers and horses as they had expected). This shows the false expectation of the Jews regarding the coming of the kingdom of God.

Luke 17:20-21 "Once, on being asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, Jesus replied, "The coming of the kingdom of God is not something that can be observed, nor will people say, 'Here it is,' or 'There it is,' because the kingdom of God is in your midst."

# WHAT IS THE KINGDOM OF GOD?

Devotion 04

**What is a kingdom?** The best way to define a kingdom is to say it is a government. A kingdom is a government because the major role or duty or purpose or the reason why a kingdom exists in the first place is so it can govern its citizens (people that belong to a kingdom).

What is a government? A government is an administration. It is the ruling body. It is the one in power and in control. It has authority and it exercises it's influence or it's power.

That means a kingdom controls it's people and it's territory. A kingdom is a body and system of management, it manages a specific realm or domain. A kingdom is the responsible body in charge which is in power and rules. A kingdom directs and exercises influence.

If Egypt existed as a kingdom, it would be referred to as the kingdom of Egypt. Pharaoh would be the king in such a kingdom and his administration would be ruling, managing and controlling the Egyptians (citizens). Pharaoh's management body would be directing and exercising influence over the Egyptians because it's the kingdom of Egypt, and Pharaoh rules over Egypt. In the New Testament, Jesus mentions the kingdom of heaven.

Matthew 3:2 "And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

Applying the same definition of what a kingdom is to the kingdom of heaven, that means the kingdom of heaven is the rulership of God, His reign, His control and His management in heaven and over heaven. The kingdom of heaven is God exercising influence in heaven. It is God monitoring and administrating heaven's affairs.

Now that we understand what a kingdom is, that now means the kingdom of God is the government of God. It is the rulership of God or the management of God. It is God in control, directing and leading and reigning. The kingdom of God is God's own administration.

Kingdom Characteristics

A kingdom must have a realm/region or area where a king and/or queen rules. There must be that region present. It can't be a kingdom if the king has nowhere to

rule. Babylon was a kingdom, the king Nebuchadnezzar ruled Babylon. Babylon was the state or region being ruled. Pharaoh was a king and Egypt was the land being ruled.

It is the kingdom of heaven because heaven is the place or realm or region that God is ruling. One main important aspect of a kingdom, there has to be a realm or region being ruled. Regarding the kingdom of God, which region or realm does it own or exist in?

The kingdom of God has earth as it's region or place of reign. We see this in scripture, first when Daniel sees in a dream the kingdom of God coming on earth. He sees it coming to destroy and taking over all earthly kingdoms.

Daniel 2:44 “In the time of those kings, the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that will never be destroyed, nor will it be left to another people. It will crush all those kingdoms and bring them to an end, but it will itself endure forever."

Second, we see the kingdom of God having earth as it's region when Jesus says He is going to preach the good news of the kingdom of God (on earth) for that is why He came. In other words, He is establishing the kingdom of God on earth. That means the kingdom of God has earth as it's region or place of reign.

Luke 4:43 “But he said, “I must proclaim the good news of the kingdom of God to the other towns also, because that is why I was sent.”

In the Lord's prayer we pray and we say thy kingdom come. Thy kingdom come where? Thy kingdom come on earth. That means the kingdom of God has earth as it's region or realm or place of existence.

Matthew 6:10 "your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven."

We said every kingdom needs to have it's region or realm, and the region or realm of the kingdom of God is earth. This then directly connects the kingdom of heaven to the kingdom of God, now let's see the relationship between the two and how they are linked.

We are saying that, the kingdom of God is God's government and management and administration, and from scripture we have seen that it's His government on earth. But the rulership and government of God doesn't start existing on earth, it already exists in heaven. That is why we say thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Matthew 6:10 “your kingdom come, your will be done,  on earth as it is in heaven."

It's because the will already exists and it's being done on earth as it is in heaven. So the kingdom of God is the government and rulership of God, so is the kingdom of heaven. The difference is that in the kingdom of heaven, it's His reign over heaven and in the kingdom of God it's His reign over earth. But His reign in heaven already exists and His reign over earth is the one we pray everyday saying let it come, this

then means that the kingdom of God is an **extension** of the kingdom of heaven which already exists.

This is so important. The kingdom of God is an extension of the kingdom of heaven onto earth. In other words, the influence and management and government of God which already exists in heaven is the one which is extending and covering earth, that's what the kingdom of God is. God has control over heaven, He directs and rules heaven, and we are saying He should also direct and rule earth, that's the kingdom of God and that's how it links to the kingdom of heaven.

## Other Kingdom Characteristics

The people that make up a kingdom are called subjects or citizens. They are those who submit to the kingdom's authority. In Solomon's kingdom, the lsraelites were the citizens or subjects of his kingdom. In the kingdom of heaven, angels, the twenty-four elders and Jesus who already ascended to heaven are the citizens or subjects of that kingdom. In the kingdom of God, believers in Christ and the whole Christian community, those who received salvation are the citizens or subjects of the kingdom of God.

Another characteristic of a kingdom, every kingdom must have an army. The duty of the army is to protect the citizens or the subjects of a kingdom. Egypt as a kingdom had the Egyptian army to protect the Egyptian people from any kind of wars. The kingdom of heaven as a kingdom has angels too as soldiers or the army to protect its citizens. You are a citizen of the kingdom of God, angels are there as an army of the kingdom of God to protect you.

## Hebrews 1:14 "Are not all angels ministering spirits sent to serve those who will inherit salvation?"

Each kingdom has a lifestyle. Lifestyle refers to the way of life. It covers many social aspects including language and dressing. The way of life of the Egyptian kingdom was the Egyptian language and Egyptian dressing and Egyptian culture. What is the way of life in the kingdom of heaven and in the kingdom of God. Remember these two, the kingdom of God and the kingdom of heaven both are comprised of a government or administration or management body which is made up of God. The way of life of these two kingdoms is righteousness. That is why Jesus says seek first the kingdom and it's righteousness because righteousness is the way of life or the lifestyle for any kingdom whose government is God.

## Matthew 6:33 "But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well."

Notice how Jesus puts the kingdom and His righteousness in one place because righteousness is the lifestyle or the way of life of the kingdom.

## Characteristics of the Kingdom of God and Kingdom of Heaven

We have seen how Jesus puts the kingdom and righteousness in one place that means for these two kingdoms, righteousness has a major contribution to their social make-up. It's the lifestyle. Now let's move to the next interesting part, Jesus said He came to teach about the kingdom of God.

**Luke 4:43-44 "But he said, "I must proclaim the good news of the kingdom of God to the other towns also, because that is why I was sent." And he kept on preaching in the synagogues of Judea."**

Afterwards, we see Jesus teaching about the kingdom, going all over preaching about it.

**Matthew 9:35 "And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people."**

When we look at what Jesus preached about, read Matthew 5-7, Jesus' sermon on the mount. He taught about love and forgiveness and about giving to the needy and about trusting God. But we thought Jesus said He wants to teach about the kingdom of God, how does love and humility and giving connect to the kingdom of God?

They connect in this manner, they are the major characteristics and aspects of the kingdom of God. In the kingdom of God and of heaven, God is the government, and we already know that God is love, so the kind of lifestyle the kingdom of God possesses is now a lifestyle of love. We already know that God is holy, so key characteristics and aspects of the kingdom of heaven and kingdom of God now become holiness and righteousness, that is why Jesus goes about teaching humility, love, forgiveness and self-control because those dictate the behaviour of those who are now part of the kingdom of God.

Jesus then walks teaching about giving to the needy, prayer and fasting because they are the pillars of the kingdom of God, the kingdom we have defined as God's government or management. God is holy/righteous, so the kingdom of God or the kingdom of heaven must have righteousness as a priority. Paul then defines the kingdom of God as righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.

**Romans 14:17 "For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit,"**

It now makes sense because these are the lifestyles of the kingdom of God. Each kingdom has it's constitution and laws. Jesus gives us the constitution of the kingdom of God, He says love your neighbour as you love yourself.

Above all, the most important definition is that the kingdom of God is God's governance, His reign or His administration over earth.

# THE KINGDOM'S ARRIVAL ON EARTH

Devotion 05

People knew that the kingdom was coming and were waiting so long for the kingdom. They had all kinds of weird imaginations of how the kingdom was going to come. Let's look at the scripture below to see how the kingdom arrived on earth.

**Luke 8:1 "After this, Jesus travelled about from one town and village to another, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom of God. The Twelve were with him,"**

The kingdom arrived on earth in the manner stated above, Jesus preaching it to the people. That's the manner and method in which it arrived on earth. If you follow through Jesus' parables, they always start with **"now the kingdom of God is likened to."** That was Jesus talking and teaching about the kingdom, so was He also introducing the kingdom of God on earth. That's the manner in which the kingdom arrived on earth.

**Luke 16:16 "The Law and the Prophets were proclaimed until John. Since that time, the good news of the kingdom of God is being preached, and everyone is forcing their way into it."**

Jesus says the law and the prophets were proclaimed until John, but from John going forward, it was the good news of the kingdom being preached. That's how the kingdom arrived and existed on earth. We also see that when Jesus sends his disciples to other towns, he says go and preach about the kingdom of God.

**Luke 9:1-2 "When Jesus had called the Twelve together, he gave them power and authority to drive out all demons and to cure diseases, and he sent them out to proclaim the kingdom of God and to heal the sick."**

From that, we see that the kingdom was introduced and established on earth through teachings and preaching. That's how the kingdom arrived on earth. Evidence that the kingdom was coming from God, as Daniel and other prophets had prophecied, we see it when John says Jesus is from above and all that He says is from above. That means his teachings (the kingdom He taught about) was from above hence the kingdom was really coming from God.

**John 3:31-32,34 "The one who comes from above is above all; the one who is from the earth belongs to the earth, and speaks as one from the earth. The one who comes from heaven is above all. He testifies to what he has seen and heard, but no one**

accepts his testimony. For the one whom God has sent speaks the words of God, for God gives the Spirit without limit."

John says Jesus is from above, and He testifies what he has seen and heard from above. The one whom God has sent speaks the words of God. So the words of Jesus about the kingdom were the words of God, hence the kingdom was coming from God. Jesus himself says my words are not my own, they belong to the Father.

John 7:16 "Jesus answered, "My teaching is not my own. It comes from the one who sent me."

Jesus says His teaching was not His own. It was from the One who sent Him. Jesus' teaching was about the kingdom of God. That means the kingdom was from God. Hence the prophecy by Daniel was fulfilled that the kingdom was coming from God.

Daniel 2:34,44 "While you were watching, a rock was cut out, but not by human hands. It struck the statue on its feet of iron and clay and smashed them. In the time of those kings, the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that will never be destroyed, nor will it be left to another people. It will crush all those kingdoms and bring them to an end, but it will itself endure forever."

The kingdom arrived on earth as teachings and preaching by Jesus. Jesus taught about the kingdom, that's how He introduced it and established it on earth. We know that the kingdom is from God because Jesus said my words are from the One who sent me. Hence the kingdom becomes "a rock that was cut but not by human hands" according to Daniel.

We lastly see that indeed the kingdom arrived and was established as teachings because even after Jesus had ressurected from the dead, He still taught about the kingdom. He spoke about the kingdom, hence the kingdom arrived as teachings and preachings. Jesus spoke about the kingdom, hence that's the manner in which it came on earth.

Acts 1:3 "After his suffering, he presented himself to them and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God."

# THE KINGDOM'S EXISTENCE ON EARTH

Devotion 06

We now know how people thought the kingdom was going to come on earth. They thought it would be armies and chariots and everything linked to military. Everyone still wondered how the kingdom would exist on earth, where the kingdom would be found, that is to say, it's physical address or location. They all wondered how as inhabitants of the earth they would interact with the kingdom and when. Jesus said the words below as a response to such questions and confusion that filled people's minds.

**Luke 17:20-21 "Once, on being asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, Jesus replied, "The coming of the kingdom of God is not something that can be observed, nor will people say, 'Here it is,' or 'There it is,' because the kingdom of God is in your midst."**

The Pharisees expected to see chariots and horses and flags as the kingdom arrives, hence they asked Jesus, when is the kingdom going to come? Jesus then replied and said that the coming of the kingdom of God is not something that can be observed.

How is it that the coming of the kingdom of God is not something that can be observed? It is because it arrived in form of teachings by Jesus. Jesus walked from town to town and spoke about the kingdom, that's how it was established on earth.

**Luke 4:43 "But he said, "I must proclaim the good news of the kingdom of God to the other towns also, because that is why I was sent."**

The kingdom arrived on earth in form of teachings and preachings by Jesus. Teachings and preaching is something that is not toungible. You can't touch teachings or see them, hence Jesus says the coming of the kingdom of God is something that cannot be observed. In other words, we can't see the coming of the kingdom with our eyes. Using our physical eyes we can't see the arrival of the kingdom. Daniel says God will set up His kingdom.

**Daniel 2:44 "In the time of those kings, the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that will never be destroyed, nor will it be left to another people. It will crush all those kingdoms and bring them to an end, but it will itself endure forever.**

The process of God setting up His kingdom isn't something that can be observed, as Jesus said. We can't observe, we can't see the coming of the kingdom of God. The kingdom existed as teachings and preaching.

Luke 17:21 “nor will people say, ‘Here it is,’ or ‘There it is,’ because the kingdom of God is in your midst.”

Jesus went on to say, neither will people say here is the kingdom or there it is. That means the kingdom is not something physical and toungible. The fact that it existed and arrived through Jesus' teachings, teachings are not something we can see, that means the kingdom of God was unseen from the first place.

We can't see the kingdom with our physical eyes. Jesus says because the kingdom is in your midst. The kingdom is with us, the kingdom is in us.

"In Your Midst" means within you. That Greek phrase "in your midst" or (**ἐντὸς ὑμῶν**) can mean "among you" because Jesus, the King, was standing right before them. It can also mean "within you" because the Kingdom reigns in hearts through repentance and faith.

Remember the characteristics and aspects of the kingdom, they are love and joy and peace and kindness. Those were the teachings of Jesus Christ, and that is what the kingdom is and how it exists like, hence the kingdom is already inside you, it's already in you, it's already in our midst.

That's how the kingdom existed and still exists on earth. We can't see it with our physical eyes. We can't say there is the kingdom or here it is because the kingdom is already in our midst. It's among us and it's within us.

# A PRESENT-DAY REALITY

Devotion 07

What is a present-day reality? It's something that is current, it's something that is recent and it is something in existence. A present-day reality refers to something that is already happening around us, it refers to something that occurs within the present age or time. It is something that usually happens everyday or something we come across daily. In this devotion, let's look at how the kingdom of God is a present day reality.

Jesus said the coming of the kingdom of God to earth is not something we could observe. He said no one can say here is the kingdom or there is the kingdom because the kingdom is already in our midst.

**Luke 17:20-21 "Once, on being asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, Jesus replied, "The coming of the kingdom of God is not something that can be observed, nor will people say, 'Here it is,' or 'There it is,' because the kingdom of God is in your midst."**

The kingdom in our midst means the kingdom is among us. We see that from the fact that Jesus introduced the kingdom through teachings and preachings which were sometimes parables. He was telling these to his disciples, and some of the disciples present were Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, Peter etc. His disciples later wrote those teachings about the kingdom down and passed them over to us. We have the teachings of the kingdom today, we find them in the New Testament in the four gospels. That means to us the kingdom is a present day reality.

The kingdom in our midst also means that the kingdom is within us. When Jesus was teaching about mercy and forgiveness, He likens the kingdom to a king whose servants owed him.

**Matthew 18:23,33,35 "Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. Shouldn't you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?' "This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother or sister from your heart."**

When Jesus was talking about mercy and forgiveness, He includes the kingdom because the kingdom of God involves mercy and forgiveness. Paul said it also, he extends the kingdom of God to righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.

Romans 14:17 “For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit,”

If Jesus describes the kingdom in terms of mercy and forgiveness and Paul also defines the kingdom of God as righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit, the moment we have these attributes in us (peace, joy, mercy, forgiveness etc), we have the kingdom in us, that means, the kingdom is really a present day reality.

Let's lastly look at something Jesus said, He said if you see that something happening, then know that the kingdom has come. That something Jesus mentioned, we see it happening around us, that means the kingdom is in our midst. Let's look at what that something is.

Luke 11:20 “But if I drive out demons by the finger of God, then the kingdom of God has come upon you.”

Jesus said if He drives out demons, then we should know that the kingdom of God has come upon them. Jesus drove out demons, that means the kingdom had come upon them. Even today, demons are being driven out, that means the kingdom is with us. This really shows that the kingdom is indeed a present-day reality.

# KINGDOM FAITH IN THE MIDST OF CHALLENGES

Devotion 08

Life sometimes is very difficult. Facing things like sickness, unemployment, failing marriages or being unable to pay bills. These situations are a burden to every human being. A certain man in the bible was in such a situation. Let's see who this man was and his exact situation.

**Mark 5:22-23 "Then one of the synagogue leaders, named Jairus, came, and when he saw Jesus, he fell at his feet. He pleaded earnestly with him, "My little daughter is dying. Please come and put your hands on her so that she will be healed and live."**

Jairus' daughter was sick. Imagine, as a parent and your child is dying. Jairus was in so much pain. The bible said Jairus was a synagogue leader. The other synagogue leaders were the Pharisees and chief priests who criticised Jesus all the time and called Him a fake/false prophet. Jairus was one of the synagogue leaders, but when he sees Jesus, because of his situation, Jairus forgets about his authority and his pride, he forgets about his title and everything important to him, he simply fell at his feet and pleaded with Jesus while on his feet.

There are situations we come across in life, situations that humble us, situations that send us to our feet. Imagine your house getting burnt, imagine your parents getting involved in an accident and dying. Imagine being admitted due to severe sickness. These situations humble us and send us directly to our feet. But Jairus knew where to run to in times of trouble. He fell on his knees and pleaded with Jesus. When life becomes challenging, let's go on our knees and plead with Jesus in prayer.

**Mark 5:35 "While Jesus was still speaking, some people came from the house of Jairus, the synagogue leader. "Your daughter is dead," they said. "Why bother the teacher anymore?"**

While Jesus was on his way with Jairus to his house, people from the house brought news that Jairus' daughter was dead. Imagine when what you thought was the solution fails to work. The people from the house even said do not trouble the teacher anymore. Imagine how Jairus was feeling in such a situation. Imagine the sadness and depression that filled his heart. Jairus' problem had just shifted from bad to worse. He had tried all that he could do to fix things but it just didn't work. I love the next verse and what Jesus says.

Mark 5:36 “Overhearing what they said, Jesus told him, “Don’t be afraid; just believe.”

Jesus overhead the bad news brought to Jairus, and Jesus told Jairus not to be afraid. Look, when trouble surrounds us, when we are knocked off from our feet, when finances don't balance, when the business continuously have a loss, when fired from the job, when deadly sickness comes, do not be afraid.

Let us not be afraid of the storms and battles that surround us. Jairus had received news that his daughter was dead, all hope was gone, fear and pain and sadness covered Jairus during this time. But Jesus said to Jairus, do not be afraid but only believe.

In such situations, we have to flee from being afraid and keep believing. When things don't make sense, when we are hard-pressed by challenges and difficulty at all sides, we only have to keep believing. Let us keep believing and never let go of faith. Keep believing that your situation will change.

Jairus' daughter had died, but Jesus said keep believing. Even when death surrounds us, when our businesses and academics are dead, let's keep believing that things will be okay. Yes, the people around us might confirm that there is no longer hope, but when all hope is lost, Jesus said only believe.

That means we have no reason to be sad and depressed because of the situations/death that lies ahead of us, that means we don't have to fear unemployment or sickness or bad grades for our children at school or fear failing marriages. When that surrounds us, Jesus said we mustn't be afraid, but we should just believe. Even when people quench away our hope, let's hold on to faith and keep believing. I like the heroes of faith, they died believing.

Hebrews 11:13 “All these people were still living by faith when they died. They did not receive the things promised; they only saw them and welcomed them from a distance, admitting that they were foreigners and strangers on earth.”

Paul listed the heroes of faith in Hebrews 11, the likes of Abraham, Moses, David etc. He said, they were still believing when they died, they died in faith. Paul said they did not receive the things promised to them, but still they died believing. We have no reason whatsoever to stop believing. Let's never stop to believe till the day we die. We have no reason to succumb to fear because we have to die believing. Let's keep the faith up, let's never be afraid but keep believing, so that when the Son of man (Jesus) comes, He will find faith on the earth. If we keep believing till the day we die, He will find faith on the earth when He returns.

Luke 18:8 “I tell you, he will see that they get justice, and quickly. However, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the earth?”

# UNLOCKING KINGDOM GLORY

Devotion 09

How do we attract success and prosperity so that it draws near us? How do we conquer our challenges and troubles? How do we get healing in the face of sickness? How do we get financial breakthrough in the face of failing businesses? How do we graduate with flying colours in face of academic failures? How do we cultivate happy marriages in the face of failing, sad marriages? How do we become employed with high-paying jobs in face of unemployment in the nation? In short, how do we unlock that kingdom glory and success in face of difficulty and challenges?

If we read in John, a certain family was covered by a dark cloud. Their brother had died and Jesus had delayed to go to the family's aid. The brother' name is Lazarus. Let's read what happens at a particular point in time during Lazarus's funeral.

John 11:39 “Take away the stone,” he said. “But, Lord,” said Martha, the sister of the dead man, “by this time there is a bad odor, for he has been there four days.”

Jesus had arrived at Lazarus' grave, Jesus commanded them to remove the stone. Martha argued that Lazarus had been dead for three days and a bad odour was already present within Lazarus' dead body. I love what Jesus said as a response. Let's read the following verse.

John 11:40 “Then Jesus said, “Did I not tell you that if you believe, you will see the glory of God?”

Jesus said, did l not tell you that if you believe you will see the glory of God. This is very powerful. Jesus is telling us that if we believe, we will see the glory of God. That's how we unlock kingdom glory and kingdom success for our lives, we unlock it through believing.

The body had been burried for three days. Its exactly the same situation with us. Yes, the job has ended. Yes, the sickness has struck. Yes, the business is failing. Yes, your children are having bad academic grades at school. But Jesus is saying, if you keep believing, you will see the glory of God. That's how the situation changes, it changes because of our faith. If you believe, you will see the glory of God. That's the secret to unlocking the kingdom's glory.

John 11:35 “Jesus wept.”

When Jesus arrived at Lazarus' funeral, He wept. Other bible scholars argue that what made Jesus to weep was the unbelief He saw in the people. Martha didn't even want the tomb to be opened, that level of unbelief made Jesus cry. Your unbelief today makes Jesus cry. Yes, you are financially broke and you are in debts, keep believing. Your unbelief that your situation will remain like that makes Jesus cry. If you believe, you will see the glory of God. Your faith will unlock the kingdom's glory.

Mark 4:37-41 “A furious squall came up, and the waves broke over the boat, so that it was nearly swamped. Jesus was in the stern, sleeping on a cushion. The disciples woke him and said to him, “Teacher, don’t you care if we drown?” He got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves, “Quiet! Be still!” Then the wind died down and it was completely calm. He said to his disciples, “Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?” They were terrified and asked each other, “Who is this? Even the wind and the waves obey him!”

When they were traveling, a violent storm attacked the boat. Jesus was sleeping. When they woke up Jesus, he rebuked the storm. Jesus said to them, why are you afraid, don't you have faith? In situations we become afraid, we have to use our faith. In difficult situations, we have to keep believing. If we believe, we will see the glory of God. If we believe, we will see the storms being calm.

Let's learn to use faith. In the kingdom of God, faith is a weapon that God gave us. We use faith to calm violent storms. Let's exercise our faith. Let's use our faith. Faith is so great that it can move mountains. We mustn't use faith only when we are in difficult situations, we must use faith everyday. God said the righteous live by faith.

Habakkuk 2:4 "Behold, his soul which is lifted up is not upright in him: but the just shall live by his faith."

The scripture above says the just shall live by faith. If the just are living by faith, that means they exercise their faith everyday. Yes, we face challenges everyday, so do we also use faith everyday. If we use faith everyday, that means we also see God's glory everyday. Let's keep walking in faith. Let's keep believing God. That means we have no reason to be sad or depressed or contain any negative emotion we might feel because faith is always at our disposal. We have no reason to be sad, we have faith, our ever present tool to use in trouble.

Above everything, let's remember the words of Jesus. He said, if we believe, we will see the glory of God. Don't be defeated by that situation, keep believing and you will see the glory of God.

KINGDOM RESSURECTION

# DEFEATING SEALED TOMBS

Devotion 10

One thing about the kingdom of God is its power and ability to raise the dead. During Jesus' second coming, the sealed tombs will be defeated and all who lie in the graves will rise.

**John 5:28-29 "Do not be amazed at this, for a time is coming when all who are in their graves will hear his voice and come out—those who have done what is good will rise to live, and those who have done what is evil will rise to be condemned."**

During Jesus' second coming, the kingdom will be exposed and revealed in it's full power and force. When it appears in it's complete and physical form, graves and all sealed tombs will be opened and all who are in graves will rise.

This ressurection power of the kingdom will not start to exist when Jesus returns to earth for the second time, throughout the bible we see the dead being raised to life, that was the demonstration of the ressurection power the kingdom carries. Let's look at a few examples where sealed tombs were defeated by the kingdom's power and authority.

**John 11:34,39,41-44 "Where have you laid him?" he asked. "Come and see, Lord," they replied. "Take away the stone," he said. "But, Lord," said Martha, the sister of the dead man, "by this time there is a bad odor, for he has been there four days." So they took away the stone. Then Jesus looked up and said, "Father, I thank you that you have heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I said this for the benefit of the people standing here, that they may believe that you sent me." When he had said this, Jesus called in a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" The dead man came out, his hands and feet wrapped with strips of linen, and a cloth around his face. Jesus said to them, "Take off the grave clothes and let him go."**

Jesus had travelled from town to town declaring the goodnews of the kingdom of God. He had taught the people the fundamental theories of the kingdom, now it was time for some practicals. He had told the people that the kingdom possesses power, now it was time for a demonstration of power.

Remember Mary had been with Jesus and Jesus taught Mary several things about the kingdom. Now it was time for all disciples to witness the power the kingdom carries.

Jesus intentionally delayed for Lazarus to be burried first. He first wanted the tomb to be sealed because His intention was to defeat a sealed tomb. After Lazarus was dead and had been sealed in a tomb for three days and three nights, that's when Jesus calls Lazarus to life, and the kingdom of God defeated the sealed tomb.

Not only in Lazarus' case do we see the kingdom defeating sealed tombs, after Jesus was burried, the tomb was sealed. The tomb was guarded by Roman soldiers to make sure that it remains sealed. A huge stone covered the entrance of the tomb to make sure that the tomb remains sealed. But as always, the kingdom defeats sealed tombs.

John 20:1,6-7,20,27 “Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance. Then Simon Peter came along behind him and went straight into the tomb. He saw the strips of linen lying there, as well as the cloth that had been wrapped around Jesus’ head. The cloth was still lying in its place, separate from the linen. After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord. Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe.”

The kingdom always defeated sealed tombs. The kingdom always conquered death, showing it had power over all. When Marry arrived, the stone had already been rolled. The linen Jesus' dead body was wrapped in was just lying down. Death had been conquered.

This showed us that the kingdom has power over all things. The kingdom is the most powerful force on the universe. The kingdom still has ressurection power, even when the tomb is sealed. It's good to belong to the kingdom, it's power will protect us while we are on earth and raise us up from the dead on the last day.

# THE KING CARES

Devotion 11

God cares about us. The Lord is very caring. The Lord is the king in the kingdom, we are the kingdom citizens and the Lord fulfils this kingship attribute of caring for His citizens. Paul in Acts exposes the care and kindness of the Lord.

**Acts 14:17 "Yet he has not left himself without testimony: He has shown kindness by giving you rain from heaven and crops in their seasons; he provides you with plenty of food and fills your hearts with joy."**

Paul says God has not left Himself without a testimony. God did not fail to provide a testimony or evidence of His love and care, an evidence that we can observe. The verse says He has shown us kindness by giving us rain from heaven. Whether rich or poor, whether black or white, whether in Turkey or Ethiopia, rain falls. This shows the kindness of the Lord. He created the rains and He gives them freely unto us. When rain falls, then can we farm and the rivers are filled again. This is evidence of the Lord's kindness and care, He gives us rain.

The verse goes on to say He gives us crops in their season. We know that at certain time periods, some fruits will be ripe. This is the kindness of the Lord, He provides fruits and crops and food to the whole world. We didn't pay God for the diverse fruits that exist today, we did no ritual or any sacrifice for the fruits to ripe, but the Lord provides us with crops in their season. The Lord provides us with food. This is the kindness of the Lord.

The verse goes on to say He provides us with plenty of food. Yes, there are times we are hungry but there are days too we have had more than enough. Such blessings are from God, He provides us with plenty of food. If you have something in your fridge right now or if you have food on your table, if you ate in the morning and if you are eating in the evening, it's the Lord providing you with food. This is the kindness and care of the Lord.

Paul also says the Lord fills our hearts with joy. We have all lost loved ones, we have all been through some difficulty of some sort. But even though, we still manage to laugh and smile. We have the joy and peace of the Lord living inside of us. Even after failing at school, even after being admitted in the hospital, even after being falsely accused, we still manage to possess the joy of the Lord which is our strength. This shows that the Lord fills our hearts with joy.

For us to clearly see why the Lord cares for us, let's turn to the book of Jonah. In Jonah, a reason exists as to why the Lord who is our king cares for us.

Jonah 4:5-11

“Jonah had gone out and sat down at a place east of the city. There he made himself a shelter, sat in its shade and waited to see what would happen to the city.

Then the Lord God provided a leafy plant and made it grow up over Jonah to give shade for his head to ease his discomfort, and Jonah was very happy about the plant.

But at dawn the next day God provided a worm, which chewed the plant so that it withered.

When the sun rose, God provided a scorching east wind, and the sun blazed on Jonah’s head so that he grew faint. He wanted to die, and said, “It would be better for me to die than to live.”

But God said to Jonah, “Is it right for you to be angry about the plant?” “It is,” he said. “And I’m so angry I wish I were dead.”

But the Lord said, “You have been concerned about this plant, though you did not tend it or make it grow. It sprang up overnight and died overnight.

And should I not have concern for the great city of Nineveh, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand people who cannot tell their right hand from their left—and also many animals?”

The scripture above provides a complete background of the story that shows us why God loves us and cares for us. The scripture above said Jonah had made for himself a seat and he was sitting. Then God made a a plant grow that provided shade for Jonah's head. Jonah became happy because finally his head was in the shade. The next day, God provided a worm that destroyed the plant and Jonah's shade was destroyed. Jonah became angry that his shade was destroyed because the sun was now scorching him.

Jonah was being mad and angry over a plant. God said to Jonah, why are you being bitter about a plant that you didn't even create. You are not the reason why that plant existed in the first place, so why are you being greatly disturbed by it's death. God then said, these people of Niniveh and all animals inside, God made them. In other words, even if the people of Niniveh were bad, God still cared for them because He created them. They forever will be people created by the hand of God and it remains God's responsibility to care for them and sustain them.

What we learn and see from that scripture is that, God created us. God created you. God is the reason why you are alive today. Because God created you, He also cares for you. It's His duty and responsibility to provide for you and take care of you because you are rightfully His. Your parents take care of you because you are their

product. The same way for God, so you can rely on God's care for you because He is your creator and that alone makes Him care so much about you.

God will provide for you, God will deliver you. God will sustain you, God will protect you. God will guide you, God will lead you. God will transform your life, God will give you success and prosperity. God will forgive you, God will have mercy on you. God will show you His glory, God will bring you into heaven. God will give you joy and peace, God will give you His Holy Spirit. The Lord will do this because He cares for you. God cares for you because you are rightfully His, you are His creation. God will not forsake the works of His hands!

Psalm 138:8 "The LORD will perfect that which concerns me; Your mercy, O LORD, endures forever; Do not forsake the works of Your hands."

The Lord caring for you means He will never forsake you. If the Lord will never forsake you or throw you away, so you mustn't also forsake the Lord or abandon the Lord. Never give up on God because God will never give up on you. Just cast your cares upon the Lord, cast your burdens, cast all your troubles upon the Lord because He cares for you. Let's close by reading the following two scriptures in the Amplified Bible Version.

1 Peter 5:7 "Casting the whole of your care [all your anxieties, all your worries, all your concerns, once and for all] on Him, for He cares for you affectionately and cares about you watchfully."

Psalm 55:22 "Cast your burden on the Lord [releasing the weight of it] and He will sustain you; He will never allow the [consistently] righteous to be moved (made to slip, fall, or fail)."

# KINGDOM LAWS

# JUXTAPOSING

## THE KING'S LOVE

Devotion 12

For you to live peacefully in a kingdom you have to follow the rules of that kingdom. Even in God's kingdom there are certain rules we should follow. God, the king has given us commandments that we should follow. Mind you, rules are not set to rob us of our freedom but rules are there to protect us as kingdom citizens. For us to be in good terms with our king, we should be able to follow these commands.

**Matthew 22:37-40 "Jesus said to him, ""You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets."**

These commandments cover all the other commandments that were mentioned in the old testament. There's a statement which says ignorance has no defence. This means if you break a certain rule you'll pay the price whether you're aware of it or not. Let's say someone from a kingdom that allows murder visits another kingdom, if he kills a person in that foreign kingdom he will be charged with murder whether he was aware of it being a crime or not. We should be aware of every commandment of God's kingdom since we are living in it because we will pay for it, if we fail to follow those commands.

One of the characteristics of God is He is just. Being just means He gives you what you deserve. And we are aware that He does not change.

**2 Timothy 2:13 "If we are faithless, He remains faithful; He cannot deny Himself."**

Then if God is just and He cannot deny Himself, why then are we not punished for our sins? That's where the issue of grace comes in.

**John 3:16 "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved."**

We are not perishing because all our sins have been forgiven on the cross. Jesus,the son of our mighty king paid it all for us. This is amazing, how God's love was enough for Him to send His only son. We now know that we have a king who loves us.

When we talk about Jesus we talk about grace because now we're saved not because we no longer sin but because someone paid the price for us.

Romans 3:23-26 “For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed, to demonstrate at the present time His righteousness, that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.”

We are now justified because of the blood of Jesus. It's all because of God's grace that we're here because we did not deserve God's love yet He sent His only son to die for us. But we should not continue sinning just because we're not punished for it?

Romans 6:1-2 “What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it?”

We can only appreciate God's love by living right, following His commandments.

Romans 14:17 “For the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.”

# THE LORD IS THE SHEPHERD

Devotion 13

As kingdom citizens, we are led and directed by the King. That means the king is the shepherd and we are the sheep that make up the flock that belongs to our Shepherd. In the kingdom of God, the Lord is our shepherd.

**Psalm 23:1 "The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing."**

In the kingdom of God, God Himself is our Shepherd. If God is our Shepherd, we lack nothing. I need you to accept and believe that, raise your faith to a level where you truly believe that. Good grades are yours, health is yours, happy marriages belong to you and your children because the Lord is your Shepherd therefore you lack nothing. We are the people of His hand.

**Psalm 100:2-4 "Worship the Lord with gladness; come before him with joyful songs. Know that the Lord is God. It is he who made us, and we are his ; we are his people, the sheep of his pasture. Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name."**

David says we are His people, the sheep of His pasture. As God's sheep, we have to worship the Lord with gladness and come before Him with joyful songs. We can't be sad, we can't allow depression and bitterness to conquer us as God's sheep, we have to come before the Lord with joyful songs.

We have to enter his gates with thanksgiving. Let's thank the Lord for protecting us and for carrying us over. Let's thank Him for being with us each and every day. The Shepherd never leaves the flock unattended, the presence of the Lord is always with us. Being poor or failing in school doesn't mean God has abandoned us. God is always with us, the shepherd never forsakes the sheep.

The shepherd always watches over the flock and leads them. The Lord watches over us all the time. The Lord neither sleeps or slumbers, as a Shepherd, He is always watching over the sheep.

**Psalm 121:3-5 "He will not let your foot slip— he who watches over you will not slumber; indeed, he who watches over Israel will neither slumber nor sleep. The Lord watches over you— the Lord is your shade at your right hand;"**

The fact that the Lord is the Shepherd who watches over you changes everything. That means He watches over your relationship, He watches over your marriage, He

watches over your health, He watches over your finances and He never sleeps but always watches over these things to make sure you are okay.

If the Lord is the Shepherd who watches over you, what can fight against you and prosper. Nothing can bring you down because you have a shepherd who is always watching over you. You are a citizen of His kingdom and He is king and He watches over you. It's the shepherd's responsibility to fight over His sheep. The Lord fights for you.

We are sheep that belong to the flock of the Lord because we were made by the Lord. Don't be afraid, do not fear, you belong to the kingdom of God. In the kingdom of God, the Lord is the shepherd and He watches over you.

# WE CARRY THE HOLY SPIRIT

Devotion 14

In the kingdom of God, as kingdom citizens, we possese or we carry the Holy Spirit. Jesus breathed into you the Holy Spirit in the same manner He breathed the Holy Spirit into the disciples.

**John 20:22 "And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit."**

You received the Holy Spirit. You are a vessel carrying the Holy Spirit. Don't doubt that, believe that. You contain the Holy Spirit. It's one of the kingdom rewards you have received, the gift of the Holy Spirit. As kingdom citizens, we don't walk on earth as orphans. We have the Holy Spirit. You are in Jesus, Jesus is in you, therefore you have the Holy Spirit.

**John 14:18-20 "I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. Before long, the world will not see me anymore, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. On that day you will realize that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you."**

We are in Jesus and Jesus is in us, therefore we carry the Holy Spirit. Jesus before ascending promised that the Holy Spirit would descend. Before He left, He said to the disciples, wait for the Holy Spirit in Jerusalem. The Holy Spirit descended on the day of Pentecost and all the disciples were filled with power. That shows that the Holy Spirit was poured onto the earth.

Another evidence that you have the Holy Spirit is that you are born of the Spirit. From the fact that you believed and received Jesus, that means you are born of the Holy Spirit. If you are born of the Holy Spirit, that means you carry the Holy Spirit.

**John 1:12-13 "Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God—children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God."**

God and His Spirit are one. So if you are born of God, you are also born of His Spirit. Because you are born of His Spirit, therefore you carry His spirit. Another analysis to show people that you have the Holy Spirit comes from the scripture below.

**Genesis 2:7 "Then the Lord God formed a man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being."**

After God made formed man from the dust of the ground, man couldn't do anything. Man lay on the ground lifeless. Then God breathed into man's nostrils the breathe of life. In other words God breathed into man His Spirit and man became a living being. No other creature did God create breathing His Spirit into it.

God breathed the breathe of life into man. The breathe of life is God's spirit. And God's spirit is the Holy Spirit, so God breathed His Holy Spirit into man and man became a living being. That means for us to be alive, we carry God's spirit, which is the Holy Spirit therefore we contain the Holy Spirit in us. For every person to be alive, they carry the spirit which is from God (Holy Spirit) because if the spirit which is in you which came from God returns to God, then you die so evidence that you carry the holy spirit is because you are alive.

1 Corinthians 6:20 "For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's."

The scripture above says our spirits belong to God. In other words, it's God's own spirit. If it's God's own spirit, then that means it's the Holy Spirit because the Holy Spirit is God's spirit. If your spirit belongs to God, then it's His Spirit which is the Holy Spirit. So you carry the Holy Spirit. As citizens of the kingdom of God, we carry the Holy Spirit.

As long as you are alive, know that you carry the Holy Spirit. Your spirit came from God, in other words it's God's own spirit which is the Holy Spirit. That's why God loves everyone, because every person has the Spirit of God. Whether Islamic or Hindu or ethiest, for them to be alive is because they have the Spirit of God. Because of that, God loves them.

Don't be afraid of demons. Don't be afraid of evil spirits. Don't be afraid of the economic difficulties that surround you. Don't be afraid of your enemies and what they might do to you. Know that you carry the Holy Spirit in you. Nothing can defeat you, depression and bitterness can not defeat you, poverty cannot defeat you because you are made of the spirit of God. The material that makes you up is the spirit of God.

A car is made of metal, a house is made of bricks, a book is made of paper, a blanket is made of cloth and you are made of the Spirit of God. You comprise of the Spirit of God, it fills you completely. It is the reason you are alive.

Kingdom citizen, you carry the Holy Spirit!

# THE SPIRIT IN US

Devotion 15

We are citizens of the kingdom of God. God has blessed us beyond measure. He has provided us with several blessings including the Holy Spirit. Let's look at the manner in which the Lord gives the Holy Spirit.

**John 3:34 "For the one whom God has sent speaks the words of God, for God gives the Spirit without limit."**

It was John the baptist who was speaking. John says, God gives the Spirit without measure. In other words, He gives the spirit without limit. God gives the Holy Spirit boundless, He doesn't give small quantities of the Spirit, He gives us the Holy Spirit in its full power and ability.

We have received the Holy Spirit in His full working capacity and we received Him without limit. Just as God gave Jesus the Holy Spirit, just as the Holy Spirit descended upon Jesus during His baptism, the Holy Spirit too descends on us when we proclaim that Jesus is Lord. God gives us the Holy Spirit too without measure, because in the same way that He loved Jesus, God loved us too.

**John 17:23 "I in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me."**

God has loved us just as He loved Jesus and He has given us the Holy Spirit without measure. This Holy Spirit is the same spirit that hovered in the beginning over the waters before everything else was created.

**Genesis 1:2 "Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters."**

The same spirit that was moving over the waters in the beginning, more than five thousand years ago is the same spirit that is inside you. We have the Spirit of God in us. We are kingdom citizens, we possesse our father's spirit. It is the same that raised Christ from the dead, it is the same spirit in us.

**Romans 8:11 "And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of his Spirit who lives in you."**

If the spirit that has power to raise the dead and bring life where there is no life lives in you, don't worry and don't be afraid of the other things. The world cannot hurt you, the world cannot harm you. You will prosper, nothing can defeat you. The economy won't bring you down. World finances will bow down to you. All spirits fear you, because the Spirit that created everything is in you. It is the same spirit that raised Christ from the dead, that spirit is in you. You will graduate, you will have a high paying job, you will have a happy marriage, you will have healthy children. You will have a long life span, not because of anything you have done, but because the Holy Spirit is in you. He is the force of the universe, He is the greatest power alive. We also received power when we received the Holy Spirit.

Acts 1:8 "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

Jesus says, when the Holy Spirit arrives, He arrives with power. That means we carry power, we carry victory, we have confidence because the Holy Spirit is with us and upon us. The Holy spirit which we received without measure enables us to become witnesses of God. The Holy Spirit encourages us, He strengthens us and He gives us peace.

Acts 9:31 "Then the church throughout Judea, Galilee and Samaria enjoyed a time of peace and was strengthened. Living in the fear of the Lord and encouraged by the Holy Spirit, it increased in numbers."

They enjoyed a time of peace because they had the Holy Spirit. They were encouraged by the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit encourages us. The Holy Spirit allows us too to see the glory of God. Stephen was full of the Holy Spirit, that is when He saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at God's right hand. The Holy Spirit allows us to see God's glory.

Acts 7:55-56 "But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, looked up to heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. "Look," he said, "I see heaven open and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God."

As kingdom citizens, we have received the Holy Spirit without measure.

# JESUS OUR SHEPHERD

Devotion 16

Jesus Himself confirmed that He is our Shepherd. He said it while preaching to the crowd in the book of John. He said that He is the Shepherd and we are the sheep.

**John 10:14 “I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me—"**

The fact that Jesus is our Shepherd changes everything. The Shepherd watches over the sheep. Jesus watches over us. We can now sleep in peace, we are now certain that we will prosper and succeed in life, we are now sure that our health will be okay because Jesus is the Shepherd who watches over us, and He cannot fail to watch over us.

When a sheep is injured, even before the other sheep notice, the shepherd sees it and comes to it's aid. We live in a very difficult world. Marriages are failing, children are naughty, some parents are cruel, school is difficult and at the workplace there is corruption. We get injured from all these things that surround us. Before we run to Jesus to report that we have been injured, He notices and He comes to our aid first and He helps us. What a Shepherd Jesus is!

From the Shepherd the sheep obtain a sense of belonging. In a difficult world where there is identity crisis, social media is playing a big role in deciding how people should live their lives. As kingdom citizens, when we look around, we see our Shepherd nailed on the cross. That alone gives us a sense of belonging, it gives us purpose and confidence. That is sufficient to discipline us. We create such an identity for ourselves just by considering our Shepherd.

The Shepherd fights for us. We are sheep, we don't have power to defend ourselves from the enemy. It is the shepherd's duty to protect the sheep from all evil and crime. Jesus, our shepherd, doesn't fail to protect us. He even prayed to the father so that we can be protected from all evil.

**John 17:15 “My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one.”**

We have a Shepherd who loves us and cares for us. He gives away His life for our sake because He loves us. He says He is the Shepherd that gives away His life.

**John 10:11 “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.”**

Jesus says there is no greater love than this that a man lay down his life for his friends.

John 15:13 “Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.”

Jesus is the Shepherd who loves us. He will never shy us away. He stays forever by our side. He will keep us day and night. He gives us His peace and His joy. We can trust Jesus. As sheep, we have to know our Shepherd.

John 10:14 “I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me—"

As kingdom citizens, one of the greatest gifts we have received from God is to know Jesus our Shepherd. The fact that we are able to pray, we are able to read His word and trust Him, that's a gift we have received from the Shepherd. We need to be grateful to God for having the chance and opportunity to serve and know him. Others are kneeling before idols, but we know and we worship the true God who is our Shepherd. We have to thank God for that opportunity to know Him and to serve Him.

As sheep, we are totally dependent on our Shepherd. We wait for Him to lead us and to direct us. We do all things through our Shepherd who gives us strength.

Philippians 4:13 “I can do all this through him who gives me strength.”

We get our strength from the Shepherd. It's okay that we are weak, because we receive strength from the shepherd. Let’s give Him our weakness and trade it with His strength. When we are weak, our Shepherd is strong. As kingdoms citizens, let's come before the shepherd with our weaknesses, and He will give us strength.

# THE FATHER'S GOOD PLEASURE

Devotion 17

There is a difference that exists between someone who gives with a willing heart or a willing spirit and someone who gives but deep inside not willing to. That difference is so clear and evident.

When you ask something from your parents or from your spouse, you can tell their level of willingness to give you from the response they give you in return. We are talking about cheerful giving here, even the bible says God loves a cheerful giver.

**2 Corinthians 9:7 "Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."**

What is a cheerful giver? A cheerful giver is someone who gives freely and joyfully, usually without an expectation of reward. They give with a happy heart, embracing the act of giving as an opportunity to bless others. More than God loving a cheerful giver, He is a cheerful giver. Where do we see that? We see it when God gave us the kingdom.

**Luke 12:32(KJV) "Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom."**

The father's good pleasure means God is a cheerful Giver and He is pleased to give us the kingdom. God is excited to give us the kingdom because Jesus said it's His good pleasure to give us. This refers to God's delight, joy, and gracious will to give us the kingdom. It's a expression of His loving kindness, favor, and generosity towards us.

If God is pleased to give us the kingdom, we should receive it with gladness. Let's close talking about how we ought to receive the kingdom.

**Acts 17:11 "Now the Berean Jews were of more noble character than those in Thessalonica, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true."**

We should receive the goodnews of the kingdom with great eagerness. Great eagerness is a strong feeling of enthusiasm, excitement, and anticipation. It's being

highly interested and motivated. That's how we should receive the kingdom God is pleased to give to us, with great eagerness.

They examined the scriptures. Do we examine the scriptures? To examine is to check thoroughly and dig deep trying to understand the core concept and checking if it's true. They examined whether what Paul was saying was true. The reason why fake prophets lie to us is because we no longer examine the scriptures. The reason why the church is being deceived is because it no longer examines the scriptures. The reason why there is so much confusion in the church regarding certain policies like eating pork and the Sabbath day is because we no longer examine the scripture to see what they really say.

The reason why gay marriages are now being held in church, the whole congregation blessing them is because they we no longer examine the scriptures.

They examined the scriptures everyday. How often do we examine the scripture? How often do we do an in-depth study of the bible? How often? If we are to receive the kingdom which God is delighted to give, let's be in a position to examine the scriptures everyday!

# THE KINGDOM CONFERRED

Devotion 18

"**Love is not love until it's given away**." This is a famous proverb that exists in our contemporary society. It means you can't claim that you love someone until you do something that really shows that you love that person. If you love your children as a parent, you will provide them with food. If your spouse loves you, they will buy you a present on your birthday. Love is not declared by words alone, it's always followed by an action.

God did not only express His love for us by sending Jesus to die on the cross. That wasn't the only greatest expression of love God did to us. Giving us the kingdom was a great expression of His love.

**Luke 22:29-30 "And I confer on you a kingdom, just as my Father conferred one on me, so that you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom and sit on thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel."**

During the last supper Jesus said something great that we usually miss. Jesus said l confer on you a kingdom. What is it confer? It means to grant, bestow, or give something in a formal or official manner. Jesus here is saying l officially transfer the kingdom of God to you. The kingdom has been conferred to us.

To confer involves to bestow a kingdom upon someone, giving them authority, power, and dominion. We possese the power and authority that lies in God's kingdom. This makes us kingdom citizens. Imagine, being a citizen of the kingdom of God. It's bigger than what you think. It means you have access to God Himself because it's the citizen's right to talk and interfere with his King.

Jesus says just as my father conferred on me one. All the works Jesus did, his teachings and miracles and humility, it's because the father had conferred on him a kingdom, and Jesus says l'm passing it over to you(us).

Jesus goes on to say, with the kingdom, we may eat and drink at Jesus' table. Everyday we are seated at Jesus' table in heavenly places eating and drinking with him.

**Ephesians 2:6 "And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus,"**

When we believe in God, when we exercise faith in the midst of trouble, when we are full of joy and when we pray, we seat with Jesus at his table in his kingdom. Because the kingdom is all about loving your neighbour as yourself, when we love all men, we seat with Jesus at His table.

Jesus also said so that you can seat on thrones. The kingdom gives us ways and approaches we can use to sit on thrones. Kingdom principles like humility, if you humble yourself, God will lift you up. It's a kingdom principle of how to seat on thrones.

The reason why there is so much crime in the world, the reason why there is so much unhappiness in our relationships and marriages and the reason why there is so much confusion in our lives is because we are not using the kingdom principles that make us seat on thrones. The kingdom throne is a throne of happiness and peace. Jesus tells us to forgive, he tells us to love our enemies and pray for them, he tells us never to revenge and he tells us to conquer evil by doing good. These are kingdom strategies to seat on kingdom thrones of happiness and peace while we are on earth.

Forgive your partner after they wrong you, love your enemy and pray for them. Each time someone wrongs you, conquer evil by doing good. If you do these, you are eating at Jesus' table in the kingdom. If you do these, you are taking your seat on a kingdom throne. If you do these, you are making use of the kingdom that was conferred to you.

Romans 12:21 “Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.”

# WHAT A MIGHTY KING WE HAVE

Devotion 19

God reigns that is why He has the power to heal the sick and raise the dead here on earth. We said a king only rules in His kingdom so this means God's kingdom is also here on earth.

Hebrews 10:23 “Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful.”

God is different from our eartly kings who make empty promises. If He says He will do it then it will surely happen because our king is faithful.

2 Corinthians 1:20 “For no matter how many promises God has made, they are "Yes" in Christ. And so through him the "Amen" is spoken by us to the glory of God.”

1 Corinthians 2:9 “But as is written: "Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, Nor have entered into the heart of man The things which God has prepared for those who love Him."

God has prepared great things for those who love Him. Things that no one has ever seen nor heard nor imagine. What are you asking God for? Do you know that He can give you that and so much more. That's His tendency of giving things in abundance because He is mighty.

Genesis 48:11 “Israel said to Joseph, "I never expected to see your face again, and now God has allowed me to see your children too.”

After so many years of thinking that Joseph was dead, Jacob was granted favor to see Jacob and his offsprings. This is what God does in our lives if we remain rooted in Him. You pray for good healthy, He gives you more life on top of that. You pray for good grades, He gives you a good job on top of that. His works are marvelous. God always works in ways we cannot see and like Jacob we will see the offsprings of our prayers.

Let us look at what God gave Solomon after he had asked for wisdom.

1 Kings 3:11-14 “Then God said to him: "Because you have asked this thing, and have not asked long life for yourself, nor have asked riches for yourself, nor have asked the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern justice, behold, I have done according to your words; see, I have given you a wise

and understanding heart, so that there has not been anyone like you before you, nor shall any like you arise after you. And I have also given you what you have not asked: both riches and honor, so that there shall not be anyone like you among the kings all your days. So if you walk in My ways, to keep My statutes and My commandments, as your father David walked, then I will lengthen your days."

Solomon asked God for wisdom but he also got many riches, honor and a long life. That is how gracious our God is. He is willing to give you so much more if you only abide in Him. Great things will come your way, things that you haven't asked for, if you only remain in Him. God promised Solomon a long life if he only walked with Him. This is what God is saying in our lives, He has already installed great things for us, things that we could never imagine but He wants us to walk with Him and keep His commandments.

Acts 3:5-8 “So he gave them his attention, expecting to receive something from them. Then Peter said, "Silver and gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk, And he took him by the right hand and lifted him up, and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength. So he, leaping up, stood and walked and entered the temple with them--walking, leaping, and praising God.”

The man lame was expecting money from Peter and John but that is when he got his healing. This man received healing because he was expecting something. What are your expectations from God. You should go to God with expectations so that He may give you more. Do you have something that you want God to do in your life? Do not limit Him because He's able to help you for His ways are higher than our ways, how can He not give us want we ask for.

John 5:7-9 The sick man answered Him, "Sir, I have no man to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up; but while I am coming, another steps down before me." Jesus said to him, "Rise, take up your bed and walk." And immediately the man was made well, took up his bed, and walked. And that day was the Sabbath.”

The man wanted healing and he wanted God to heal him in a certain way. God has easier ways for us but we struggle with life sometimes because we want Him to use our methods but God is not a man .

Matthew 7:11 “If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask Him!”

The secret is to ask God. The bible does not limit us on things we should ask for, so let us not limit God in our lives because He's able to do so much more.

Ephesians 3:20 “Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us,”

# FOLLOW KINGDOM PATH

Devotion 20

**“Romans 14:17 “For the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.”**

This verse tells us that the kingdom of God requires someone with a good character more. It's not all about God's blessings on us for instance good health,good grades, fancy lifestyles etc. It's more about how we live (our daily lifestyle). I'll try to explain more using what happens in movie production when selecting actors for certain scenes.

There will be a script that explains how the movie will go like. The script directors or producers look for certain people with the same physical characteristics, voice, age range etc who can act that scene. They do not change their script to fit with the actor but they look for an actor who can fit in their script, this is exactly what happens in the kingdom of God. If God says something, it'll come to pass but you'll choose if you'll fit in His plans or not.

**Isaiah 7:14 “Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.”**

The Bible did not say a certain virgin named Mary will give birth to a son. This means any virgin that time was a possible candidate of giving birth to Jesus but Mary's character fitted perfectly well in God's plan. God saw it fit for the virgin to be Mary because of how she lived. We have to know that God's plans will never change for us but we decide if we're going to fit in them or not. We also see that Joseph and Mary, as a couple were righteous before God, they were people with good characters that is why they were able to fit in God's plans. As a couple or as an individual you decide if you're going to fit in God's plan or not by how you live daily.

**Zechariah 11:12-13 “I told them, "If you think it best, give me my pay; but if not, keep it." So they paid me thirty pieces of silver. And the LORD said to me, "Throw it to the potter"-the handsome price at which they priced me! So I took the thirty pieces of silver and threw them into the house of the LORD to the potter.”**

Researches show that this was a prophecy of how Jesus was going to be sold with thirty pieces of silver. Someone had to betray Jesus for scriptures to be fulfilled but there was no name mentioned for that. We then see Judas Iscariot's character making him fit to be the one who sold the Son of God. He was able to fit in that

character perfectly well, if it was a movie production we would say he performed the scene very well.

Let's say God's says he's going to deliver our nation from corrupt leaders, that's His plan and it will not change but you choose if you're going to be part of the corrupt leaders that will  be put down or if you're going to be the one God's going to use to put those corrupt leaders down.

2 Timothy 3:1-5 “But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days. People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God--having a form of godliness but denying its power. Have nothing to do with them.”

Here is what is going to happen in the last days. A lot of behaviors were mentioned but no name was mentioned so this means we are going to choose if we're going to be part of the lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God or if we're going to stand for Christ in these last days.

Let us try by all means to live right by being righteous, peaceful, loving, kind,joyous because that is what the kingdom of God is all about.

Luke.17.20 “Once, having been asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, Jesus replied, "The kingdom of God does not come with your careful observation, nor will people say, 'Here it is,' or 'There it is,' because the kingdom of God is within you.”

# WE ARE THE KINGDOM

Devotion 21

The book of Revelations is made up of the visions which John who was Jesus' favourite disciple saw. The visions were about what currently happens in heaven and what will happen in heaven. Regarding what currently happens in heaven, John saw that there are living creatures which surround God's throne. These living creatures worship God always, day and night they never stop saying Holy is the Lord God Almighty.

Revelation 4:8 “Each of the four living creatures had six wings and was covered with eyes all around, even under its wings. Day and night they never stop saying: “ ‘Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty,’ who was, and is, and is to come.”

What I'm interested in with regards to the living creatures is how they define and identify us as. "Us" here refers to the inhabitants of the earth who believe in Jesus Christ. The living creatures defined us as a kingdom.

Revelation 5:8-10 “And when he had taken it, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb. Each one had a harp and they were holding golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of God’s people. And they sang a new song, saying: “You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased for God persons from every tribe and language and people and nation. You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they will reign on the earth.”

Clearly the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders said we were made to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God. Ladies and gentleman, we are the kingdom. We were made to be the kingdom. Jesus purchased us with his blood so we can become the kingdom. Tell yourself that you are the kingdom of God. The living creatures identify us as the kingdom, they proclaim that we were made a kingdom, so identity yourself as the kingdom of God.

Revelation 1:5-7 “and from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood, and has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve his God and Father—to him be glory and power for ever and ever! Amen. “Look, he is coming with the clouds,” and “every eye will see him, even those who

pierced him"; and all peoples on earth "will mourn because of him." So shall it be! Amen."

The scripture above says Jesus is the faithful witness. It also says Jesus is the first born from the dead and the ruler of all the kings of the earth. Jesus loves us and freed us from our sins by His blood. What evidence exists that Jesus loves us, His kingdom? The evidence that Jesus loves His kingdom is that He freed it from sin by His blood which was poured through when he suffered on the cross.

The next verse said Jesus made us to be a kingdom. He qualified us to be a kingdom. What l'm trying to show you is that more than you are a representative or a member of God's Kingdom on earth, you are that kingdom. The hosts of heaven, by hosts l'm refering to the twenty-four elders and the living creatures, they identified you as the kingdom on itself.

Let's look at one characteristic about the kingdom and l will show you how it maps onto you. King Nebuchadnezzar in the book of Daniel said God's kingdom exists forever, it shall never cease from reigning through eternity.

Daniel 4:34 "At the end of that time, I, Nebuchadnezzar, raised my eyes toward heaven, and my sanity was restored. Then I praised the Most High; I honored and glorified him who lives forever. His dominion is an eternal dominion; his kingdom endures from generation to generation."

Nebuchadnezzar said God's kingdom endures from generation to generation. In other words, the kingdom of God is eternal. If we are the kingdom of God, we also have to be eternal and we have to endure from generation to generation. That is achieved through the eternal life we received from Christ.

John 3:16 "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."

John records Jesus saying we shall have eternal life. It's Jesus Himself who said it, that we shall not perish but we will have eternal life. Nebuchadnezzar said the kingdom endures from generation to generation, that means it's existance is eternal. This shows that we match the characteristics of the kingdom of being eternal hence we are the kingdom.

In Revelations, the hosts of heaven were heard saying we (the believers of Jesus who inhabit the earth) were made to be a kingdom. Starting now, don't think so low about yourself. Identify yourself as the kingdom of God. We are the kingdom.

# KINGDOM ESTABLISHMENT

Devotion 22

When one is established in something, his/her beliefs in that thing will be firm. Being established is being grounded, being rooted and being found on something. When you are established, you are stable, you are fixed and you are settled in/on that thing.

What impact does something you are established upon has on you? Being established on something can provide a sense of stability and security, allowing you to feel grounded and confident. Being established on something can give you direction and purpose, helping you navigate life's challenges and make decisions.

What you're established upon can shape your identity and self-definition, influencing how you see yourself and your place in the world. What you are established upon can influence your values and priorities, guiding what you consider important and worth pursuing.

Being established on something can help you develop resilience and perseverance, enabling you to cope with obstacles and setbacks. When you're established on something, you may feel a sense of belonging to a community, group, or ideology, which can be a powerful source of connection and meaning.

In life there are several things we can be established upon. Several things can become a place of rest and comfort for us. We can be established in relationships such as marriages and bonds with families. We can also be established in our finances and put our confidence in our sources of income.

We can be established even in football and other things that bring us entertainment like movies. Our careers and drinking alcohol can be a point of establishment too. Others are established in the love they receive from their spouses, others in their academic qualifications. Some are well established in politics and in the government. In the kingdom of God, what do we have to be established on?

**Colossians 2:6-7 "So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness."**

Paul says we should be established in Jesus Christ. He says we should be rooted and built up in Him. In this devotion l want to talk about why we should be established in Christ and not in anything else that we can be established in.

When we look at everything else that exists in the world, it's temporary. Nothing is permanent in life. Our marriages are temporary, anytime anything can happen. Our businesses are temporary, your shop can be burnt anytime. Our cars are temporary, you can get involved in an accident anytime. Our favourite football clubs cannot bring us happiness all the time, anytime they can be beaten. Alcohol can not be a point of establishment, anytime you can become sick from drinking. You can't be established in your good health, anytime you can become sick. Your children or your parents can die anytime therefore relationships cannot be a source of establishment.

When we look at life, everything else is temporary. Why then do we only have to be established in Christ, it's because Christ is the only permanent thing. He says He is the Alpha and Omega, that means He is the beginning and the end.

Revelation 1:8 “I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, “who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty.”

Jesus is the beginning and the end. Before the world was created, He was there. When the world ends and is destroyed, so shall Christ appear in the clouds. You have to be established in Christ alone, anytime your husband and wife can die, but Christ is ever present and He dwells forever. Christ says He already is in you, Christ will never leave, He is inside you. Christ exists permanently inside of you.

John 14:20 “On that day you will realize that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you.”

In Christ we live and move and have our being. Permanently we exist in Christ.

Acts 17:28 ‘For in him we live and move and have our being.’ As some of your own poets have said, ‘We are his offspring.’

- devotion to be continued in "Kingdom Establishment 2"

# KINGDOM ESTABLISHMENT 2

Devotion 23

We are still outlining why we have to be established in Christ alone. We have to be established in Christ because He alone is the permanent being who exists in this world. Our jobs have age limits set for us to leave. Our friends and relatives and loved ones can die anytime, but Jesus is the ancient of days. He existed through eternity and always He is and forever will be with us.

**Matthew 28:20 "and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."**

Jesus said He is with us to the very end of age. Even if we die, Jesus will still be with us in the life coming next, that's what the end of age mean. Other versions say to the end of time. Even if we become blind today, Jesus will still be with us. Even if we become terminally ill, Jesus is the Saviour who abides. Let's be anchored and established in Christ alone because He alone is the Saviour who abides forever. God even said even to your old ages, l am He who will sustain you.

**Isaiah 46:4 "Even to your old age and gray hairs I am he, I am he who will sustain you. I have made you and I will carry you; I will sustain you and I will rescue you."**

Don't be afraid of becoming old, remember that when you have gray hair God will still be your sustainer. Let's explore two more reasons why we have to be established in Christ alone.

We have to be established in Christ more than anything else because He loves us. God demonstrated His love for us in that while we were sinners, Christ died for us.

**Romans 5:8 "But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us."**

God didn't demonstrate His love for us because we were righteous. In the midst of our sin, during that moment when we were denying God, considering Him invalid and refusing Him, that's when He sent His son to die for us. Most people love us for who we are and what we have and what we can do to help them. It's opposite for Christ. While we were sinners, He died for us. It's difficult to die for a righteous man, but Christ chose to die for a wicked world. Let's be established on Jesus because He has proven that He loves us.

The last thing, let's be established on Jesus because He is the greatest power and the greatest force on the universe. There is no power like His. He is the one who created the universe and called everything into existence. Jesus was in the beginning with God, He conquered death. All spirits bow down to Him. Nothing compares to the power that is in Christ Jesus. All witches and wizards do not compare to the power found in Christ, because even the witches and wizards were formed by Christ.

Colossians 1:15-17 "The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together."

The power that is in the Devil cannot be compared to the power that is in God because the devil is another creation made by God. We can never compare a creation to the Creator. Let's be established in Christ because He holds the greatest power. Stop trusting in these fake prophets, don't be established in witchcraft. Remember that Christ holds the greatest power.

# KINGDOM SECURITY

Devotion 24

We are kingdom citizens, under the management and governance and care of God. God is the King in charge of our protection. He doesn't fail to protect us. What has the kingdom of God done to make sure that we are safe all the time? What kind of protection have we received from the kingdom of God? What method of protection exists that ensures that we are safe all the time?

**Psalm 91:11 "For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways;"**

The scripture above tells us that God commands His angels concerning us to guard us in all our ways. There are angels, they protect all the citizens of the kingdom of God. There are angels God has commanded, angels that are only interested and concerned with your affairs. These angels are there to guard you always in all your ways. Let's look at another scripture.

**Psalm 34:7 "The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear him, and he delivers them."**

The angel of the Lord is around those who fear the Lord. There are angels all around you. This is the protection we have received from the Lord, angels surround you. What do these angels really do to us?

**Exodus 23:20 "See, I am sending an angel ahead of you to guard you along the way and to bring you to the place I have prepared."**

The angel goes ahead of us. Each time you travel, the angel goes ahead of you. In your marriage, in your business, everyday when you are going to work or to school, the angel goes ahead of you. It guards you along the way. You are guarded. As a kingdom citizen, you are protected and God through His angels will bring you to the place He has prepared for you. How are these angels distributed among kingdom citizens?

**Matthew 18:10 "See that you do not despise one of these little ones. For I tell you that their angels in heaven always see the face of my Father in heaven."**

Jesus says their angels in heaven, which means all these little children have angels. So do you, you have angels, angels only interested in your affairs, angels only

concerned about you. Now we know that these angels exist all around us, but do we always have to see them?

2 Kings 6:17 “And Elisha prayed, “Open his eyes, Lord, so that he may see.” Then the Lord opened the servant’s eyes, and he looked and saw the hills full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.”

This passage shows that sometimes, spiritual realities of angels are revealed to people through divine intervention. It took spiritual eyes for Elisha's servant to see these angels around him, but with his physical eyes, he couldn't see them.

Hebrews 13:2 “Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it.”

This verse suggests that angels can be present among us without us recognizing them. It's not always the case we recognise them, we can come across them at our homes and streets without knowing it.

Numbers 22:31 “Then the Lord opened Balaam’s eyes, and he saw the angel of the Lord standing in the road with his sword drawn. So he bowed low and fell facedown.”

This passage demonstrates that God can choose to reveal angels to people, often for specific purposes. It is the same thing that happened in Elisha's servant case, his eyes had to be opened for him to see the angels that surrounded him.

Genesis 19:1 “The two angels arrived at Sodom in the evening, and Lot was sitting in the gateway of the city. When he saw them, he got up to meet them and bowed down with his face to the ground.”

In the scripture above, Lot encountered angels who appeared as man. That was the same thing for Abraham too, the angels ate at Abraham's house. The fact that they ate means they appeared as men. These scriptures l was referencing to indicate that while we may not always see angels physically, they can be present and active in our lives. Sometimes, God chooses to reveal their presence to specific individuals for specific reasons.

It's many instances in the bible angels appeared to man. At the pool of Bethsaida, the angel came to stir the water. In Luke, the angel appeared to Zachariah in the temple. The idea l want you to get from this is that angels are there, they surround us and they protect us. There are there to guard us and they fight for us. They go before us and lead us. It's not always the case that we see them, to see them sometimes requires our spiritual eyes to be opened, but one thing is definite that we have have angels assigned to us.

# KINGDOM SECURITY 2

Devotion 25

We are the citizens of the kingdom of God. We have received angels to protect us in all our ways. They guard us and go ahead of us. They are always around us. Now let's look at what exactly are these angels? How does the bible define angels?

**Hebrews 1:14 "Are not all angels ministering spirits sent to serve those who will inherit salvation?"**

Angels are defined as ministering spirits sent to serve those who will inherit salvation. How do the angels serve us? They serve us through guarding and protecting us. I want you to know that you are protected. When you are traveling, when you are sleeping, when you are working, know that you are protected.

Therefore do not be afraid. Do not fear. Don't be afraid of walking at night, don't be afraid of evil spirits and of witches, know that you are protected. Angels are ministering spirits send to serve you. And these angels guard you in all your ways, they surround you. Let's now look at the quantity of angels, how many are the angels roughly?

**Hebrews 12:22 "But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels,"**

Their numbers have been stated, it's an innumerable company of angels. In other words they are countless. We can't finish counting them. Just look at what God has assigned to your protection, it's a countless number. When Paul was writing this, it was after satan had fell with a third of the angels in heaven, but still the number which remains is countless.

**Revelation 5:11 "Then I looked and heard the voice of many angels, numbering thousands upon thousands, and ten thousand times ten thousand. They encircled the throne and the living creatures and the elders."**

The number of angels which exist is huge. It's thousands of thousands of tens of thousands angels. This is the quantity or number of angels which exist. We saw that according to us, their duty is to protect and guard us. Can you see the amount of beings responsible for your protection? You can't be afraid of anything, you are protected.

Now we have seen the quantity and amount of angels which exist, now let's look at the strength of one angel, or the strength of an individual angel.

2 Kings 19:35 “That night the angel of the Lord went out and put to death a hundred and eighty-five thousand in the Assyrian camp. When the people got up the next morning—there were all the dead bodies!”

In the scripture above, one angel put to death 185 000 thousand Assyrian soldiers. Just look at the strength of an individual angel, putting a whole army to death. To destroy Sodom and Gomorra, only two angels were needed. Not many angels, just two angels.

Genesis 19:1 “The two angels arrived at Sodom in the evening, and Lot was sitting in the gateway of the city. When he saw them, he got up to meet them and bowed down with his face to the ground.”

If God used one angel to destroy an army and two angel to destroy a city, what more the number of angels that surround you and protect you. You are safe. God has constructed a strong security system of angels to protect and guard his kingdom citizens. Don't be afraid, you are safe.

Let's lastly talk about the angels at your disposal, or the angels that can come if you call. Let's look at the number of angels at Jesus' disposal.

Matthew 26:53 “Do you think I cannot call on my Father, and he will at once put at my disposal more than twelve legions of angels?”

Jesus was captured and was about to be crucified. That's when he mentions the number of angels at his disposal that could rescue him. He said they are more than twelve legions.

A legion was a large infantry unit in the Roman army, typically consisting of around 3,000 to 6,000 soldiers. The exact number of soldiers in a legion varied over time and depending on the specific Roman legion. Jesus mentions more than 12 legions of angels, imagine how big that is.

I am saying more than twelve legions of angels are also at your disposal. Why am l saying so? It is because God loves you the same way He loved Jesus hence the same number of angels He was willing to send to Jesus is the same way He is willing to send to you, because He loves you the same way.

John 17:26 “I have made you known to them, and will continue to make you known in order that the love you have for me may be in them and that I myself may be in them.”

Jesus says the love God has for Jesus may also be in us. That means God loves us the same way He loved Jesus. And if God loved Jesus and provided more than twelve legions of angels at His disposal, God also loves us and provides more than twelve legions of angels at our disposal.

You are protected. You are safe. Angels are ministering spirits send to serve you, and you have more than twelve legions of angels at your disposal when you are in trouble.

# KINGDOM DYNAMIC OF PEACE

Devotion 26

Nowadays people suffer from depression, high blood pressure etc. If we look closely at it, we'll see that even cases of suicides have increased greatly. This is because people lack peace. Most people are taking drugs because there have no peace of mind. Cases of divorces and gender based violence are increasing because people are failing to live peaceful with each other. It starts in their hearts and minds, people lack peace. One of the important aspects in the kingdom of God is peace.

**Romans 14:17 "For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit,"**

I define peace as that state of acceptance, contentment and understanding of oneself and the world. We can only attain this peace by staying in the presence of God and it is one of the fruits of the Holy Spirit. Being called a Christian is not sufficient for someone to be peaceful or to have peace. This is why we see even pastors or church leaders divorcing.

**Isaiah 9:6 "For to us a Child is born, to us a Son is given; and the government shall be upon His shoulder, and His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father [of Eternity], Prince of Peace."**

Jesus is the one who was being referred to in the verse we've just read. Jesus is the Prince of Peace and if we do not receive Him, as in allow Him to deeply sink in our spirits and express Him in our lives as well, we'll suffer from depression.

**Philipians 4:6-7 "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."**

We can only have this peace when we receive Christ and have a continuous communication with our Father. There's that trust in God that brings peace knowing that someone out there sees you and cares for you. This is what the kingdom of God is all about, knowing that there's a mighty King up there who has us at His best interest and is working all things for our good, despite lacking something in our current situation. This is the inner peace that we all need so that we may extend it to others.

The reason we feel at easy after prayer, partly, is because we would have shared our struggles with someone that we trust. It's different with sharing with a friend who after telling you're not sure if your problem will be spread to other people or not.

Hebrews 12:14 “Strive to live in peace with everybody and pursue that consecration and holiness without which no one will [ever] see the Lord.”

You cannot offer what you don't have. If you don't have inner peace you cannot live peaceful with others. The Bible is saying strive or pursue which means it's not easy to live peaceful with everyone it requires a lot of effort because sometimes you get provoked but you just have to remain peaceful.

Romans 15:13 “May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.”

God fills our hearts with peace. The moment we received Christ in our hearts, we received His peace too because Jesus is the Prince of Peace. We cannot seperate His existence in our lives and the peace He provides. Let's allow His peace to reign in our hearts. Let's kill everything that destroys our peace such as worry and stressing simply by praying and trusting God. Let's live in the peace of Christ everyday.

# SUFFERING AS KINGDOM CITIZENS

Devotion 27

The idea that we want to explore and understand or rather the question we want to answer is, are we as kingdom citizens subjected to suffering? Can we at any moment as kingdom citizens face any kind of pain or challenge? Does God allow us to go through any kind of pain, and what should that generally mean to us? Let's read what the scripture say about that.

**Romans 8:16-17 "The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory."**

The first thing is that the Holy Spirit of God testifies with our spirits that we are children of God. In other words, He agrees to that fact and stands as a witness proclaiming that we are children of God. Now, if we are children, then we are heirs.

A heir is someone who will inherit something. In the kingdom of God, we will inherit eternal life, we will also inherit eternal peace and eternal joy. We are heirs of the blessings of God.

We know that Jesus was also the Son of God, during the baptism the Holy Spirit descended like a dove saying that Jesus is the Son of God. During transfiguration, a voice was head saying Jesus is the son of God. We are also sons of God for in John it says all those who believed in Him were given a right to be children of God. Since we are also children of God just as Christ is, this means we are co-heirs with Christ. In other words, we share the same inheritance. What Christ will inherit is the same thing we also shall inherit.

The part that then explains kingdom suffering is this, it's the part that says if we shall share in Christ's glory, then that means we should share in Christ's suffering too, hence as kingdom citizens there is a suffering that we will go through in life. Indeed we share in His suffering in order that we may also share in His glory. Let's read what Paul says in Philippians about this issue.

**Philippians 1:29 "For it has been granted to you on behalf of Christ not only to believe in him, but also to suffer for him,"**

Paul says it has been granted to us on behalf of Christ not only to believe in Him but to suffer for Him too. That means sometimes as kingdom citizens we suffer. Someone might ask, how exactly do we suffer? When we are not treated fairly, when we are falsely accused, struggling with sin and choosing holiness in a wicked world are all different ways we suffer in. We started by reading in Romans 8, let's finish this discussion by reading from Romans 8 and see how Paul concluded this issue.

Romans 8:18 "I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us."

Paul then says our present or momentary troubles can not be compared to the glory that will be revealed in us. This should give us hope and produce in us patience in affliction ( Romans 12:12 ).

Romans 8:31,37,39 "What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

The issue of kingdom suffering ends in this manner. If God is for us, what can be against us? Can our suffering and problems and pains overcome us if God is for us? Definitely we can't be overcome by them because God is for us.

Paul goes on to say we are more than conquerers. We might be suffering and in pain, but in all these troubles, we are more than conquerers. We might face challenges and difficult but we are more than conquerers. We always overcome.

Paul concludes by saying nothing will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus. Our problems cannot move us away from God's love. Nothing can separate us from God's love, not even death or pain or anything hence we have more reason to rejoice than to be sad when faced with challenges.

# KINGDOM WORSHIP

Devotion 28

Many gospel worship concerts happen in the world we are living in. Others argue that it makes no sense to pay money so as to attend a concert with an aim of worshiping God because worship isn't restricted to a specific time and place. The difference and distinction of tickets, some being called ordinary and others VIP is something that has been criticised.

Others claim that they do understand the math that money for shows is the one used to book the venue, pay the electricity bills and maintain musical instruments but still that doesn't change the fact that worship is an experience that shouldn't be paid for. There is a difference between a worship performance and a worship experience, at concerts it's now a performance more than an experience.

There are several discussions and issues and debates that already surround the issue of worship. In this devotion, l will mention three things about worship that benefits us all.

**John 4:20-24 "Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you Jews claim that the place where we must worship is in Jerusalem." "Woman," Jesus replied, "believe me, a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You Samaritans worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know, for salvation is from the Jews. Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth."**

The issue of worship is mentioned in John when Jesus talked to a Samaritan woman. There is a lot to learn from this conversation about worship. The first thing is, the Samaritan woman was concerned with the place of worship. She said our fathers worshipped in this mountain, but you Jews say we should worship in Jerusalem. Her worry was on the place of worship. That's more like us today, shouldn't we worship at gospel concerts or worship should be done freely at church.

Jesus replied and said a time is coming when you will neither worship God on this mountain or in Jerusalem. On the other hand, Jesus was saying it's not about the place of worship. It's not about where you worship, that's not the matter. Then what is it about? Jesus mentioned it in the next verse, in verse 22.

Jesus then said you Samaritans worship what you do not know. That was the problem with their worship, and that's the problem with our worship too. We worship what we don't know. Do we know this God that we are worshiping, do we have a relationship with Him? Does His word abide in our hearts? Before singing about His love and faithfulness, do we know what those are and what they achieved for the whole world at large? Let's worship what we know and what our hearts agree with otherwise we will be lying.

Jesus went on to say as Jews we worship what we know. In other words, in our case this means we read His word, we have it in our hearts and we know what everything we are saying means and what God means as well. Jesus then said for salvation is from the Jews, He was now talking about Himself. Salvation is in Jesus, so let's worship Jesus. Let's know what to worship.

Jesus then goes on to say a time is coming when the true worshippers will worship God in Spirit and in truth. What does that mean, it means in honesty, when you are absolutely genuine about it. You can't worship saying you are the righteousness of God in Christ when you engage in adultery daily. How then do you maintain that righteousness. In spirit and in truth means your heart is in it, you mean what you are saying and you are absolutely sure about it. You are honest about it.

Jesus then says God is Spirit and his worshippers should worship in spirit and in truth. In other words, God looks at the heart. Your heart is not hidden from His sight, and He seeks someone who is absolutely honest and sure about what He is saying. You can't say God is your hiding place when you seek help from witchdoctors. Are you honest? In truth means being honest before God.

Romans 12:1 “Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship.”

We have to offer our bodies as a living sacrifice. It should be holy and pleasing to God.

Paul says that is your true and proper worship. True worship is living a righteous and holy life. That's worship, offering your bodies as instruments of righteousness and holiness. Let's explore the last point.

Revelation 4:8 “Each of the four living creatures had six wings and was covered with eyes all around, even under its wings. Day and night they never stop saying: “ ‘Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty,’ who was, and is, and is to come.”

In heaven they worship God day and night. That means worship is something we do all the time. By maintaining purity 24/7, you are worshiping all the time. Remember worship is done in spirit. In your spirit, what are your thoughts about God. Do you dishonour God sometimes in your thoughts when you are sitted quietly. Worship is done in spirit and in truth. That's roughly all the time.

# KINGDOM UNITY

Devotion 29

How do we live together as kingdom citizens during our time on earth? How do we interact with other believers? Let me start by talking to people who aren't interested in going to church. If you have no desire to meet and fellowship with other saints here on earth, how then do you desire to fellowship with saints above. The saints above in heaven include David, Daniel, Paul and all people we read in the bible. First, be interested in going to church and with meeting other believers down here. That shows you have interest in dwelling together with other believers above. Going to heaven would fulfill that interest.

**Romans 12:4-5 "For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others."**

Paul says just as one body has many members, each of these members having no same function i.e mouth for eating and feet for walking. In that same manner in Christ, though we are many we all form one body. As Christians we should understand that we form one body in Christ. Irregardless of the church you belong to or the denomination or sect you go to, whether you are Anglican or Catholic or Pentecostal etc. but as believers in Christ (all those who put their hope and faith in Christ), despite our huge numbers and differences, we form one body in Christ.

Be willing to associate with other believers, being humble and kind to them because you are one body with them. How can you ill-treat a fellow brethren you attend church with, remember you form one body with him/her. Paul goes on to say each member belongs to all the others. Fingers alone can't make the whole body. They need arms and shoulders. That's why Paul says we belong to each other.

Be willing to associate with other believers. We belong to each other. We form one body in Christ, each member belongs to each other.

**Romans 12:10 "Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves."**

As the body of Christ, we should be devoted to one another in love. Being devoted to one another means caring for each other and being a brother's keeper. We should honour one another above ourselves. We should respect each other and think highly of the next person more than we do for ourselves.

Romans 12:14 “Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse.”

Definitely you will be offended somehow or in some way by other members in the body of Christ. When that happens, don't wish them bad or revenge. Bless those who persecute you. Bless them and curse not.

Romans 12:19-20 “Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God’s wrath, for it is written: “It is mine to avenge; I will repay,” says the Lord. On the contrary: “If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head.”

Paul says when we are offended we might say we are leaving revenge to God's wrath. But better than leaving revenge to God's wrath, if your enemy is hungry, feed him. If he is thirsty, give him something to drink. That's the best revenge we can do, the best revenge is love. In doing so, we conquer evil by doing good.

Romans 12:21 “Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.”

That's how we establish kingdom unity where there is war and battle. We conquer evil by doing good. If we do that, we transform even the soul of the saint misbehaving and soak his heart in love. Let's move on.

Romans 12:15 “Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn.”

If we are living in kingdom unity, we should rejoice with those who rejoice and mourn with the ones crying. It's part of being there for each other, offering support or strength in times or moments where it's needed. Finally, let's try by all means to live in peace with everyone.

Romans 12:16,18 “Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited. If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.”

# THE KINGDOM'S GLORY REVEALED

Devotion 30

Let's talk about an expectation that lies within the heart of every creation. Let's read the scripture below and see what this expectation is.

**Romans 8:19 "For the creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed."**

Creation waits in eager expectation. In other words, creation is patient, and it waits in expectation for when the children of God will be revealed. The question then is, why is creation waiting in eager expectation for when the sons of God will be revealed?

**Romans 8:20-21 "For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the freedom and glory of the children of God."**

Creation was subjected to frustration. What does creation refer to? It refers to all created things which includes plants, animals, humans, stones, land etc. These were subjected to frustration. They were subjected to frustration not by their own choice but by the will of the Creator. Why was this so?

This was done so that hope can exist. The scripture above said creation was subjected to frustration in hope that it might be liberated from it's bondage to decay. All creation hopes to be set free from decay and death. Animals don't want to die and decay. Plants don't want to be cut off so that they can wither and decay. As humans we don't want to die and be buried in graves were our bodies decay. The whole creation hopes to be liberated from it's bondage to decay.

The same verse goes on to say creation hopes to be brought into freedom and glory of the sons of God. That means plants hope to be brought into this freedom and glory of sons of God. So do the animals and rocks and stars and the land. What is this glory and freedom of the sons of God and when will it occur?

**1 Corinthians 15:51-53 "Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed—in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be**

changed. For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality."

We were talking about the eager expectation of when the sons of God would be revealed. What will happen when the sons of God are revealed? The scripture above tells us what will happen. In a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, we will be changed. The perishable will be clothed with imperishable and the mortal with immortality. In other words, this would be the start of eternity and everlasting joy and peace and an end to death and decay. The whole creation includes animals and plants, they are also eagerly waiting for when the sons of God would be revealed for they too would be liberated from bondage to decay. This is the eager expectation that when the sons of God are revealed at the sound of the last trumpet, all creation too might be liberated from frustration and bondage to decay.

Let's talk about this word because we will meet it in the scriptures that follow. You already know the word but let's understand it deeply. The word is groan. Groan means a low, mournful sound uttered in pain or grief. This chapter highlighted three things which are groaning. Let's read and see these three things.

Romans 8:22 "We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time."

The first thing mentioned to be groaning is the whole creation. This includes plants and animals and everything that exist inside the land (soil), everything that's found in the seas and sky. These have been groaning from the beginning up until the present time and wait patiently for when the glory of the kingdom of God will be revealed. Let's look at the second thing that's groaning.

Romans 8:23 "Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption to sonship, the redemption of our bodies."

Paul puts us as believers on the list of things which are groaning. Paul said we have the first fruits of the Spirit but we groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption to sonship and the redemption of our bodies. I explained for you already what the redemption of our bodies is, that's when we will cast away mortality and wear immortality. That's when pain and death and sadness and sorrow will be removed from us and we are welcomed to eternal joy and peace. We eagerly wait for that. Let's see the last thing that's groaning.

Romans 8:26 "In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans."

I can't believe the third person listed to be groaning here. It's the Holy Spirit. He groans too. He helps us in our weakness, we don't know what to pray for but the spirit intercedes with groaning which cannot be uttered. But a time will come when

we no longer have that weakness and we know what to pray for, hence the Holy Spirit won't be groaning. This means the Holy Spirit too eagerly waits for this day to arrive.

This sermon showed us that creation was subjected to frustration, and we wait with eager expectation for when the sons of God or the kingdom of God will be revealed. That's when we will wear immortality. As kingdom citizens, we wait for the day when Christ returns because that's the day when we will be revealed (when our glory will be revealed ) as sons of God. For the scripture says when Christ will appear in the heavens in His glory, so shall we be like Him in glory. In other words, that's the sons of God being revealed.

1 John 3:2 “Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.”

Hence the day Christ appears is the day when we shall be revealed. We wait eagerly for that day for it will liberate the whole creation from frustration and bondage to decay. Three things were mentioned to be groaning, namely the whole creation, the believers and the Holy Spirit. The concussion of this book is, we eagerly wait for when the kingdom will be revealed for that's when we will be liberated. It's not only us as believers waiting, so is the Holy Spirit and the whole creation for they too are groaning.

## Closing Thoughts:

As we bring this devotional to a close, our prayer is that your heart is fully yielded to the reign of Christ. The Kingdom is not just about words—it is power. It is presence. It is purpose.

You have been called to live as an ambassador of this Kingdom, embodying righteousness, peace, and joy in every area of life. Keep seeking, keep growing, and keep advancing the Kingdom.

May what began as a 30-day journey become the foundation for a lifetime of Kingdom impact.

— Preach Mawushe & Vespers Makado

Conclusion:
Title: Advancing the Kingdom

As Kingdom citizens, we are called not only to live by the Spirit but to expand the influence of the King wherever we go.

Romans 14:17 reminds us that true Kingdom living is marked by righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit. Galatians 5:22–23 reveals the fruit that flows from a life rooted in Him.

Let these truths guide your steps, shape your relationships, and define your mission. May you be a light in darkness, a vessel of peace in chaos, and a representative of Heaven on earth.

Go forth and live the Kingdom. Preach the Kingdom. Be the Kingdom.

With Kingdom blessings

— Preach Mawushe & Vespers Makado

# MAKADO VESPERS

# PARIDZAISHE PREACH MAWUSHE

Preach Mawushe and Vespers Makado are ministers of the Gospel devoted to advancing the Kingdom of God through teaching, writing, and equipping believers to live with purpose and power. With extensive ministry experience and a deep passion for discipleship, they have committed their lives to seeing the Body of Christ embrace the culture of Heaven and walk in the reality of Kingdom life. Together, they continue to serve in churches and various platforms of ministry, calling believers to live transformed lives by the power of the Holy Spirit and the truth of God's Word.

Vespers Makado

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# THE KINGDOM

In a world desperate for light, the Kingdom of God shines brightest through love that forgives without limit, kindness that touches the broken, and peace that calms the storm. This book unveils the heart of heaven's culture - where patience bears all things, gentleness disarms anger, and joy rises above every circumstance. Discover how these sacred virtues, flowing from God's Spirit within us, become the most powerful forces on earth. When we love as Christ loved, show kindness without agenda, and extend peace where there is strife, we don't just talk about God's Kingdom - we make it visible.

Here lies the path to true transformation - not through human effort, but by surrendering to the Spirit's work, until our very lives become living testimonies of heaven's goodness. The world waits to see this love. Will you carry it?